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REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in 1989

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SUMMARY

Overall economic performance in Western Asia improved in 1989. The combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the region grew by 3.4 per cent, following several years of economic slow-down. Moreover, this increase was only slightly greater than the region's population growth rate of 3 per cent. The economic growth achieved in 1989 reflects to a great extent the strong demand for oil in the international market and the consequently higher oil revenues received by the oil exporting countries of the region and spill-over effects in favour of non-oil countries in Western Asia. This, combined with a generally good performance of the non-oil sectors, resulted in the improvement of overall economic conditions in the ESCWA region. Also, the prevalence of the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran has had a positive impact.

Economic performance, however, varied among different ESCWA subgroups. In the Gulf subregion, GDP grew by 3.4 per cent in 1989 after several years of stagnation or decline. Higher oil revenues and the adjustment policies pursued to cope with the impact of unfavourable earlier trends contributed to the acceleration of economic growth. In other countries of the region, however, economic growth was constrained by persistent balance of trade deficits and heavy debt-servicing burdens.

In addition to oil, most sectors in the economies of the ESCWA region performed better in 1989 than in the previous year. One major exception was agriculture. The exceptionally good performance in 1988, where the region's aggregate agricultural output grew by 4.8 per cent, gave way to a decline of 2.3 per cent in 1989.

The manufacturing sector performed well in most countries of the ESCWA region in 1989. Efforts to diversify the economies of the region are bearing fruit. Particularly successful were the petrochemical industry in Saudi Arabia; the aluminium industry in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates; and the textile and leather products and aluminium industries in Egypt.

The construction sector continued the growth it began in 1988 after several years of contraction, owing primarily to declining oil revenues and the completion of infrastructural projects in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries. With the declaration of the cease-fire in the Gulf in mid-1988, construction activity picked up again, though remaining far below the level attained during the 1970s and early 1980s.

In 1989 inflationary pressures intensified in the more diversified economies in the ESCWA region. Conservative estimates indicate that the inflation rate exceeded 20 per cent in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. Inflation in the GCC countries, however, remained generally modest. The highest inflation rates among these countries were estimated to have been 6 per cent in the United Arab Emirates and 3.5 per cent in Kuwait. In the other countries of the GCC inflation was estimated to have ranged between 0.9 per cent and 3 per cent.

The unemployment problem in several ESCWA countries was aggravated further in 1989. The labour-sending countries, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Democratic Yemen and Yemen, faced additional difficulties in their labour markets (as well as in housing, infrastructure, education, health facilities, in addition to declining remittances) owing to the repatriation of large numbers of their nationals from the Gulf countries. Unemployment rates in Egypt and Jordan are estimated to have been in the range of 13 to 15 per cent.

The region is increasingly preoccupied with the possible implications of the formation of the European single market in 1992 and the developments taking place in the countries of Eastern Europe for its longer-term development. The region is also concerned with finding ways and means to increase the involvement of the private sector in the development process in line with its needs and the world-wide trend in that direction.

The outlook for the ESCWA region in 1990 will be greatly affected by developments in the international oil market. Projections indicate a further increase in world demand for the region's oil, as well as a modest rise in prices. Thus the oil sector is expected to continue performing well and directly and indirectly supporting the activities in other sectors of the economy.

However, progress will be closely linked to resolving the debt problem; reaching a permanent settlement in the Iraq-Iran conflict; breaking the deadlock with respect to the Palestinian issue; and ending the conflict in Lebanon. If these objectives are achieved, defence expenditures in the region (among the highest in the world on a per capita basis) should fall and badly needed resources channelled instead to economic development and growth.

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I. OVERALL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. Gross domestic product

1. Overall economic conditions in the ESCWA region as a whole improved in 1989 in comparison with 1988. It is provisionally estimated that the region's GDP grew by 3.4 per cent in 1989, leaving per capita GDP in the ESCWA region virtually unchanged after falling annually since 1982.

2. Economic conditions and growth performance differed considerably among ESCWA countries in 1989. Provisional estimates indicate that GDP grew by 6 per cent in the United Arab Emirates and 5 per cent in Iraq, while it declined by 1.5 per cent in Jordan and 1 per cent in Democratic Yemen. Moreover, the growth of GDP slowed somewhat in Egypt and recorded only a modest rate of around 2 per cent in the Syrian Arab Republic.

3. The performance of the region's economy in 1989 was greatly enhanced by the considerable strengthening of demand for oil in the international oil market, the positive impact of adjustment policies undertaken, as well as by the continued observance of the cease-fire in the Gulf. While general economic activity was stimulated in the Gulf area by the significant rise in oil revenues, and the good performance of the non-oil sectors in general, it was constrained in other countries by the persistence of pressures on their balance of payments and currencies resulting from continued large trade deficits and a heavy debt-servicing burden. Both floods and shortages of foreign exchange caused Democratic Yemen's economy to suffer in 1989. The Syrian Arab Republic suffered from foreign exchange shortages, which negatively affected the manufacturing sector, and a drought which sharply reduced agricultural output. Lebanon's economy continued to be plagued by civil strife and a rapidly tumbling currency.

B. Oil

4. Oil production in the ESCWA region is estimated to have increased from an average of 12.91 million barrels a day (m/b/d) in 1988 to an average of 13.84 m/b/d in 1989 (over 21 per cent of the world's total oil production). This 7.2 per cent increase in oil production was accompanied by an approximately 17.7 per cent rise in the average price of the region's crude oil to $16.1 per barrel in 1989. Given that oil accounts for the major share of GDP, exports and government revenues in most ESCWA countries, this caused the overall economic environment to improve significantly during 1989.

5. Rising world demand in 1989 was accompanied by a decline of 790,000 b/d in the production of non-OPEC countries. The largest declines in non-OPEC production were recorded by the United States 1/ and the Soviet Union. The region responded by increasing oil production by 7.2 per cent, as stated earlier. However, the increase in production levels differed significantly from one country to the other. While Saudi Arabia's oil production in 1989 remained at around the same level of 5 m/b/d recorded in 1988, production increased by 30 per cent in the Syrian Arab Republic (to 0.35 m/b/d); 24.1 per cent in Kuwait (to 1.75 m/b/d); 20 per cent in Yemen (to 0.18 m/b/d); 17.8 per cent in the United Arab Emirates (to

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1.85 m/b/d); 16 per cent in Qatar (to 0.36 m/b/d); and by 7.6 per cent in Iraq (to 2.81 m/b/d). Only Egypt, owing to technical problems, witnessed a fall in its oil production by 2.2 per cent in 1989 to 0.87 m/b/d.

6. The combined output by the region's major oil producers (Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait) in 1989 totalled 11.43 m/b/d. Given that their total estimated oil reserves are 548 billion barrels, these countries together could maintain production at the 1989 level for another 131 years. Furthermore, given that their combined oil production capacity in 1989 was estimated at 15.5 m/b/d, this meant that they were producing at only around 75 per cent of installed capacity. In January 1989, the ESCWA region had an estimated 565.4 billion barrels of oil in reserves, thus accounting for 57.1 per cent of the world's total oil reserves of 989.9 billion barrels. Moreover, owing to expanding oil exploration activities, additional oil reserves were discovered in 1989 in several countries, including Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Oman and Egypt.

7. In addition, encouraged by the strengthening of the international oil market, several countries in the region, including Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates, are investing heavily in the oil sector to increase further their production and export capacities. Saudi Arabia and Iraq, for example, plan to increase their production capacities from the estimated current 7.5 m/b/d and 3.5 m/b/d levels to 10 m/b/d and 7 m/b/d, respectively, in the coming few years.

8. The rise in oil prices in 1989, by an average of $2.5-$3.0 per barrel over the 1988 average price, pushed oil revenues up in most ESCWA countries. The countries which benefited the most from higher oil prices were, naturally, those which increased their oil production considerably in 1989 and/or 1988. The oil revenues of the four major oil-exporting countries in the region namely, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, which totalled $40.5 billion in 1988 are provisionally estimated to have increased by 28.3 per cent to $52.0 billion in 1989. The oil-exporting countries of the region also benefited from the rise in the value of the United States dollar against other major currencies, 2/ owing to the fact that most oil transactions are denominated in this currency.

C. Government budgets

9. The rise in oil revenues had a positive effect on the budgets of most countries in the ESCWA region in 1989. The actual budget deficits of several countries are estimated to have been smaller than anticipated. For example, Oman's fiscal budget for 1989 was planned with the assumption that oil prices would average $12.5 per barrel in 1989. However, the price of Omani oil is estimated to have averaged $16.15 per barrel in 1989. Thus, while government expenditures during 1989 are estimated to have surpassed the budget's provisions, the faster rise in government revenues produced a smaller deficit. Nevertheless, many countries of the region continued to witness rising budget deficits. Austerity measures were implemented in several ESCWA countries in an attempt to reduce the size of their budgets and as a ratio of GDP, as in Jordan and Egypt. Thus several Governments maintained their efforts to restrain their expenditures while attempting to increase revenues through direct and indirect taxes. Nevertheless,

the tax system in the ESCWA countries in general remains underdeveloped and/or inefficient and therefore not very responsive.

10. To finance budget deficits since 1983, several GCC countries have drawn on their deposits and assets abroad. In 1987, for the first time, Kuwait sold treasury bills, and in 1988, Saudi Arabia began issuing securities to partly finance the budget deficits. Both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continued developing their secondary markets in government bonds in 1989 and it appears that the bond market will also increasingly be used as a monetary tool by the authorities. Furthermore, Bahrain and Oman opened stock exchanges in 1989 and took measures to regulate securities trading.

11. In addition, many ESCWA countries are implementing measures to encourage the private sector to play a greater role in the development process. Most development plans in the region indicate that the private sector is expected to increase its investment in absolute terms and as a ratio of total investment. This is expected to allow Governments to curtail their development expenditures.

D. Balance of payments

12. The current account of the balance of payments showed a mixed picture in 1989, improving in some ESCWA countries and deteriorating further in others. Benefiting from sharp rises in exports of oil, as well as from considerable increases in non-oil exports, the region's major oil-exporting countries either witnessed a reduction in their current account deficits in 1989, as was the case in Saudi Arabia, or increased their current account surpluses, as was the case in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia's current account deficit is estimated to have been reduced from $11.4 billion in 1988 to $7 billion in 1989. Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates are estimated to have increased their current account surpluses from $4.5 billion and $2.5 billion in 1988 respectively, to $8.2 billion and $3 billion in 1989. The continuation of the no-war no-peace situation in the Gulf area has prevented concerned countries from curtailing their imports of military equipment, thus adding pressures to their balance of payments.

13. The balance-of-payments position deteriorated in the more diversified economies of the region as a subgroup, as well as in the region's least developed countries (Democratic Yemen and Yemen). This took place in spite of a remarkable increase in non-oil exports, particularly in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. These countries were able to expand their non-oil exports in part due to the improved competitiveness of their exports as a consequence of the depreciation of their currencies. In the case of the Syrian Arab Republic, an additional major factor which contributed to the upsurge of exports was the willingness of the Soviet Union to accept Syrian goods in servicing the military debt with little concern to prices of these goods in comparison with international prices. Exports from the Syrian private sector, which had increased from $301 million in 1987 to $493 million in 1988, surged to $1,445 million in 1989. Public sector exports from the Syrian Arab Republic also increased considerably in 1989, particularly crude oil and petroleum products, as well as chemical products and textiles. With imports compressed by austerity measures, the Syrian Arab Republic recorded a surplus in its balance of trade in 1989 for the first time in

almost 30 years amounting to $932 million, compared to a $880 million deficit in 1988. Improvements were also recorded in Jordan. The country's exports increased by 12 per cent and re-exports by 70 per cent, while imports were reduced by 15 per cent. Jordan's balance of trade deficit is provisionally estimated to have declined by $550 million in 1989 from its 1988 level of $1,724 million. While efforts intensified in most countries of the region to increase exports of non-oil products, the pressure on the current account of several ESCWA countries continued owing to the inability of these countries to sufficiently restrain their imports of food, raw material, capital goods as well as other, less essential, items.

14. In many ESCWA countries, government policies are designed to encourage the production of goods for exports and/or for import substitution. Although progress has been made in 1989, the gap between exports and imports of goods and services in many countries of the region remains alarmingly large, especially in Egypt, Yemen and Jordan.

15. Intraregional trade in 1989 remained at a very low level. It was hoped that the establishment of the Arab Co-operation Council (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Yemen) in February 1989 would lead to a substantial increase in trade among the member countries and also between them and the members of the GCC (which was established in 1981). However, prior commitments and agreements with countries outside the region were partly responsible for diverting trade outside the region. Nevertheless, several joint ventures were established in Western Asia in 1989.

E. External debt

16. The external debt situation in the ESCWA region deteriorated further in 1989 and continued to hamper economic growth and development. The external debt of the major indebted ESCWA countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic) is provisionally estimated to have exceeded $150 billion in 1989, Egypt leading with a debt of $56 billion. The credit rating of Jordan fell abruptly in 1988 and 1989 as its external indebtedness jumped suddenly to $6.1 billion in 1988 and then to $8.3 billion the following year. The external debt to GDP ratio exceeded 100 per cent in Democratic Yemen and Jordan and was close to that figure in Egypt.

17. The debt-servicing burden of around $4 billion for Egypt and $1 billion for Jordan forced these two ESCWA countries to seek assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Consequently, both countries have been implementing IMF recommendations, in the hope of receiving favourable reviews from the Paris Club and London Club for rescheduling portions of their external debts. It is also expected that an agreement with the IMF could encourage the inflow of capital to these countries. Egypt was expected to sign an agreement with the IMF in early 1990.

18. The Syrian Arab Republic has been unable to service its debt to the World Bank, which in turn has negatively affected the implementation of several World Bank-financed development projects in that country.

F. Foreign exchange rates

19. The current account deficits, coupled with the heavy debt service payments obligations, of most of the region's more diversified economies and the two least developed countries contributed to shortages in foreign exchange in these countries and, consequently, a depreciation of their national currencies in 1989.

20. The Jordanian dinar depreciated by over 40 per cent since late 1988; in November 1988, JD 0.466 equalled $1 and 12 months later JD 0.688 equalled $1. The Egyptian pound "market exchange rate" fell to LE 2.58 per $1 in 1989 from LE 2.34 per $1 in 1988. The Lebanese pound tumbled from LL 409 to the dollar in 1988 to LL 510 to the dollar in late 1989. The official exchange rate of the Syrian pound fell from LS 3.925 = $1 in 1987 to LS 11.225 = $1 in 1988 and remained under pressure. The Iraqi dinar's official exchange rate of ID 0.311 = $1 has been under severe pressure for several years and increasingly so in 1989. Meanwhile, the exchange rate of the currencies of the six GCC countries vis-à-vis the United States dollar either witnessed small changes or remained stable in 1989.

21. The depreciation of the national currencies in the more diversified economies of Western Asia had positive and negative effects. The positive effects included: (a) the attraction of tourists, particularly to Egypt and Jordan; (b) increasing the flow of workers' remittances through the banking system; (c) stimulating exports and curtailing imports; (d) expanding employment opportunities through increasing production for exports and/or import substitution; and (e) through more realistic prices, enhancing production and reducing wasteful consumption. The major and most apparent negative effect of the depreciation of national currencies was the sharp and sudden surge in prices of many commodities, including basic goods, creating dire hardships, particularly for the low-income groups.

G. Inflation

22. Under the impact of depreciating currencies and large budget deficits, inflationary pressures escalated in several countries of the ESCWA region in 1989. Conservative estimates indicate that the inflation rate exceeded 20 per cent in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan. The first four countries were plagued by inflation during the past several years. Jordan, however, experienced modest inflation rates for several years prior to 1989; in 1988, for example, the inflation rate was estimated at around 3.2 per cent.

23. Among the more significant and negative implications of high inflation rates has been the widening of the wealth gap between different segments of the population. With the generally underdeveloped and inefficient tax systems in many ESCWA countries, the wealth and income discrepancies between various income groups continued to widen, with possible adverse effects on the social and political fabric and cohesion of society.

24. Inflation in the GCC countries, however, remained generally modest in 1989. During the past few years several GCC countries witnessed negligible and even negative inflation rates. Bahrain, for example, reported a negative inflation rate of 0.7 per cent in 1988. The increase in overall activity in the GCC countries in

1989 contributed to a small increase in inflationary pressures. This, however, was subdued in part by the falling prices of imports from countries other than the United States. The highest inflation rates in 1989 in the GCC countries are estimated to have been 6 per cent in the United Arab Emirates and 3.5 per cent in Kuwait. Other GCC countries are estimated to have witnessed inflation rates between 0.9 per cent and 3 per cent.

H. Unemployment

25. The unemployment problem in several ESCWA countries was aggravated further in 1989. The labour-sending countries of the region, Egypt, Jordar, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Democratic Yemen and Yemen, faced additional difficulties in the receiving markets (as well as in housing, infrastructure, education and health facilities) owing to the repatriation of large numbers of their nationals from the Gulf countries. Egypt, for example, had 1,600,000 workers in Iraq in 1987; by the end of 1989 their number had fallen to about 560,000. Furthermore, around 450,000 additional Egyptians join the labour force every year. Thus, even when disregarding the large number of underemployed Egyptian workers, the unemployment rate is conservatively estimated at 15 per cent.

26. Jordan, which had an estimated unemployment rate of at least 10 per cent in 1988, must have also witnessed a surge in unemployment in 1989 owing to the contraction of its economy, its high population growth, returning workers from the Gulf as well as the influx of Egyptian workers leaving Iraq.

27. The rising number of unemployed workers in the ESCWA region's labour-sending countries may possibly be causing serious social problems.

28. The return of migrant workers has led to falling workers' remittances. For example, remittances transferred by Egyptians working abroad in 1989 are estimated to have been around $200-300 million less than the $3,770 million recorded in 1988. Declining remittances in 1989 are estimated to have also been experienced by Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and the region's two least developed countries. Declining remittances have added to the balance-of-payments difficulties confronting the labour-sending countries.

29. Iraq and the GCC countries, however, do not appear to have suffered from unemployment in 1989, despite high population growth rates. Iraq has undertaken several reconstruction projects, including the rebuilding of the Fao and Basrah. The GCC countries continued the implementation of policies of substituting local manpower for expatriate workers, as well as undertaking new major development projects which helped increase the overall demand for their national labour force.

II. SECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Agriculture

30. In addition to oil, most sectors in the economies of the ESCWA region performed better in 1989 than in the previous year. One major exception was agriculture. The exceptionally good performance in 1988, where the region's aggregate agricultural output grew by 4.8 per cent, gave way to a decline of 2.3 per cent in 1989. This sharp reversal may be partly attributed to the setback in the performance of the agricultural sector in the Syrian Arab Republic and, to a lesser extent, in some other member countries. After several years of drought, the Syrian Arab Republic - a major producer of agricultural commodities in the region - witnessed an abundance of rain in 1988. This, together with the Government's measures to revive the agricultural sector, enabled agricultural output to increase by an abnormally high rate of 23.4 per cent in 1988. Drought, however, hit the agricultural sector again in 1989, and the Syrian Arab Republic's agricultural output is estimated to have dropped by 17.3 per cent.

31. In addition to the Syrian Arab Republic, negative growth rates in agricultural production were also recorded in 1989 in Yemen (-8.7 per cent) and Jordan (-4.2 per cent). In contrast, agricultural output increased notably in Saudi Arabia (9.0 per cent), followed by Iraq (3.2 per cent), Egypt (2.1 per cent) and Democratic Yemen (2.2 per cent).

32. Saudi Arabia's agricultural output has been increasing at a record-breaking pace throughout the 1980s, expanding at an average annual rate of 19.9 per cent between 1981 and 1989. In 1988, agricultural output grew by 10.8 per cent; preliminary estimates for 1989 point to a further slowdown in the growth of the country's agricultural output to 9 per cent.

33. The recent slowing down of the growth rate of Saudi Arabia's agricultural output may be partly related to the Government's growing concern about the pattern and rate of consumption of the scarce water supply. Agriculture accounts for 90 per cent of total water consumption in the Kingdom and for virtually all ground water consumption. Though Saudi Arabia has the largest water desalination capacity in the world and desalinated water is pumped to cities 500 kilometres away from the coastal plants, desalination could not be expected to irrigate wheat fields in the parched conditions of the Arabian peninsula.

34. The water issue is of growing concern for other countries in the ESCWA region. For 30 days starting 13 January 1990, Turkey diverted the waters of the Euphrates away from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq in order to store water in the Attaturk dam. This dam is planned to be the ninth largest in the world, with an estimated storage capacity of 48 billion cubic metres of water. During the 30 days in which the Euphrates waters were diverted, the dam accumulated only 2.7 billion cubic metres of water. Thus, filling the dam to capacity may require a total of about one year and a half of diverting the Euphrates. In addition to well-known adverse implications for agriculture and energy production in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, there are also detrimental effects on the environment and fisheries in these two ESCWA countries.

35. Egypt is also concerned with the building of dams in Ethiopia, which could affect the flow of the Nile river. Water supplies in southern Lebanon are also in danger of being diverted by Israel. It is essential that the sharing of water resources and protection of water rights be governed by internationally approved agreements.

36. After recording a relatively high growth rate of 5.4 per cent in 1988, food production in the ESCWA region fell by an estimated 2.5 per cent in 1989. Given the region's high population growth rate, the issue of food security becomes even more urgent. Measures are needed to sharply increase production and curtail wasteful consumption. The region continues to import at least half the food it consumes, which puts pressure on the balance of payments of the countries of the region and diverts limited foreign exchange resources from development projects. Between 1981 and 1988, the region's imports of agricultural products totalled $126.9 billion while exports amounted to only $14.9 billion. Thus, a net amount of $112 billion was spent on imports of food and non-food agricultural products. Provisional estimates indicate that net imports of agricultural products by the ESCWA region in 1989 exceeded $15 billion.

37. Efforts continued to be made in 1989 by several ESCWA countries to encourage vertical and horizontal expansion of agricultural production and to reduce wasteful consumption. Prices of most agricultural products are now decontrolled in many ESCWA countries, and farmers are given greater financial incentives than previously. Nevertheless, given the scarcity of water and the salinity of the soil, in addition to the region's high population growth rate, the food security challenge remains formidable.

B. Industry

38. The manufacturing sector performed well in most countries of the ESCWA region in 1989. Efforts to diversify the economies of the region are bearing fruit. Particularly successful are the petrochemical industry in Saudi Arabia, the aluminium industry in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates and the textile and leather products and aluminium industries in Egypt.

39. In Saudi Arabia, the petrochemical industry continued its rapid growth and profitability in 1989, benefiting from rising world demand and higher prices, as well as improved management. Saudi Arabia, being confronted with marketing obstacles to its petrochemical products in Europe, owing to the imposition of custom duties of 13 per cent by the European Economic Community (EEC), successfully found new markets elsewhere. In 1988, Saudi Arabia's petrochemical exports surged to $2.7 billion, and increased further in 1989, and were reportedly exported to 65 different countries.

40. In Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, the aluminium industry continued to perform well in 1989, in spite of some decline in international prices. Both countries are now self-sufficient in aluminium and export large quantities, particularly to other countries in the GCC. In Bahrain, the oil refinery was working at full capacity in 1989 to meet heavy demand, and measures were undertaken to expand the oil refining capacity of the country.

41. Egypt's manufacturing sector continued to benefit from the increasing attention given to it by the Government. The Egyptian Government has adopted several measures to increase the productivity and competitivenes of the country's manufacturing industry. Also benefiting from the depreciation of the national currency, Egyptian manufactured products are rising rapidly and acquiring a greater share in the local market and abroad.

42. Light and small-scale industries performed well in Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon, in part owing to the depreciation of the national currencies, as well as to the imposition of restrictions on imports in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

43. Iraq has been devoting greater attention to revitalizing its manufacturing sector, which was often hampered by insufficient supplies of raw materials due to foreign exchange shortages. The Government's policy now is to encourage the private sector to play a greater role, particularly in the light and small-scale industries. On the other hand, the Government is focusing its efforts and involvement on large-scale and heavy industries, such as petrochemicals, iron and steel, car manufacturing, fertilizers and pharmaceuticals.

44. Manufacturing in Democratic Yemen and the Syrian Arab Republic continued to be negatively affected by shortages of raw material and spare parts owing to foreign exchange problems. Idle capacity in the Syrian public sector industries was estimated to have been as high as 50 per cent in 1989.

C. Construction

45. In 1989 the construction sector continued the growth begun in 1988 after several years of contraction, owing primarily to declining oil revenues and the completion of infrastructure projects in the GCC countries. With the coming into effect of the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran in August 1988, construction activity picked up again, though remaining far below the levels attained during the 1970s and early 1980s. The reconstruction activity in Iraq, particularly the rebuilding of the Fao and Basrah, has helped boost overall construction activity in the region in 1989. Moreover, the considerable increase in oil revenues of some GCC countries, such as the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, has encouraged them to undertake new major construction projects, especially in the field of tourism.

D. Services

46. Activity in the services sector in most ESCWA countries increased substantially in 1989. A growing number of countries in Western Asia are attempting to establish their tourism sector as a significant source of foreign exchange. Egypt was extremely successful in the area of tourism in 1989. The country's revenues from tourism, which reached $1.8 billion in 1988, are estimated to have surpassed the $2 billion figure in 1989, making it the second major foreign exchange earner after workers' remittances. In addition to famous traditional tourist attractions, such as archaeological sites, theatres and entertainment places, new attractions have been added, including the recently opened

International Conference Hall, to encourage "conference tourism" and the expansion of resort areas, particularly on the Red Sea. Tourism was also buoyant in Jordan and Bahrain in 1989. Jordan's attraction was enhanced by the sharp depreciation of its currency. Bahrain continued to attract tourists from Saudi Arabia driving across the King Fahd causeway, in addition to tourists from other GCC countries and Europe. The United Arab Emirates and Oman have witnessed a large percentage increase in the number of tourists visiting them in 1989. Both countries, in their endeavour to diversify their sources of income and employment, have made long-term plans to expand their tourism sectors.

47. In 1989, the banking sector in many ESCWA countries continued its revival, which began in 1988 after several years of unfavourable balance sheets. Bank profits, particularly in Saudi Arabia, increased remarkably in 1989. Good performance was also recorded in Bahrain, where major offshore banks continued to expand their activities in the Far East and Europe. Though the banking sector performed well also in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, owing primarily to sharply higher oil revenues and a surge in re-exports, profits were restrained, owing to the overcrowding of banks in these two countries. Both Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates are encouraging the merger of banks to increase efficiency and profitability. Banks in the United Arab Emirates have extensive links with the Far East and the Indian sub-continent, developed through trade and the large number of Indian and Pakistani expatriates residing in the country. Banks in Egypt benefited from workers' remittances, which have been increasingly channelled through the banking system. In Lebanon, measures were undertaken towards consolidating the overcrowded banking sector. Simultaneously, most major banks made overdue increases in capital to adjust to the collapse in value of the Lebanese pound.

III. ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

48. The outlook for the ESCWA region in 1990 will be greatly affected by developments in the international oil market. Projections indicate a further increase in world demand for the region's oil, as well as a modest rise in prices. Thus the oil sector is expected to continue performing well and directly and indirectly supporting the activities in other sectors of the economy.

49. However, progress will be closely linked to resolving the debt problem; reaching a permanent settlement in the Iraq-Iran conflict; breaking the deadlock with respect to the Palestinian issue; and ending the conflict in Lebanon. If these objectives are achieved, defence expenditures in the region (among the highest in the world on a per capita basis) should fall and badly needed resources channelled instead to economic development and growth.

50. In addition, the potential of regional economic co-operation, especially among the four member countries of the Arab Co-operation Council, which was established in 1989, and among the six members of the GCC should be exploited and promoted. At the same time, co-operation needs to be deepened between the region as a whole and other developing regions in the world. This is increasingly becoming a pressing issue in view of the coming into being of the single European market in 1992 and developments emerging in Eastern Europe.

IV. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Women in development

51. Out of an estimated total labour force of 29 million in the ESCWA region in the late 1980s, women accounted for 3.77 million, or 13 per cent. The growth in the female labour force has accelerated in the 1980s reaching 7.8 per cent per annum, in comparison with 5.6 per cent in the 1970s and 3.4 per cent in the 1960s. Though female participation in the labour force in the 1980s increased more than twice the overall growth in the total labour force, female employment in the market remains low. Constraining the growth of the crude female activity rate (labour force as percentage of total population) in the ESCWA region are the following factors: (a) the youthfulness of the age structure in the region where the proportion of children below 15 years of age is extremely high exceeding in some countries (such as Yemen) 45 per cent; (b) social obstacles which prevent women from participating in the labour market; and (c) the inadequacy of social services which facilitate the combination of women's duties within the household and outside.

52. A review of the crude activity rates by age in the 1980s revealed that females in the age group 20-34 are the most active, with an activity rate ranging between 10 to 36 per cent among ESCWA countries. A sharp decline is observed in the female activity rate after the age of 35 years.

53. Education seems to play an important role in increasing female economic participation: the more educated a woman is, the more likely she is to participate in the labour market.

54. In the more diversified economies of the region, females are mainly employed in two sectors: (a) agriculture and (b) "community and personal services", which together account for approximately 75 per cent of women's employment. This percentage , however, has been steadily declining, while the employment of women in manufacturing has been rising and currently exceeds 11 per cent.

55. In the GCC countries, however, female employment is mainly concentrated in the "community and personal services sector". Over 90 per cent of employed Kuwaiti females, for example, are engaged in this sector.

B. Education

56. Educational expansion and improvements have continued to be a major characteristic of social development in the region. The literacy rate for the region as a whole is believed to have already reached 50 per cent. Among the 14 countries of the ESCWA region, only 3 countries (Democratic Yemen, Yemen and Egypt) have illiteracy rates higher than 50 per cent. More significant perhaps in this regard is the fact that the gross enrolment rate in primary education (an indicator of long-term trends in and future projection on literacy) has almost reached 85 per cent for the region and is close to 100 per cent in Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and West Bank and Gaza. In countries where gross enrolment ratios at the primary school level are significantly below 100 per cent, this is mainly caused by the low enrolment ratio

of female students. Also, there is an urgent need to promote literacy and adult education as the illiteracy rate among the elderly, particularly among the female elderly population, is significantly high.

C. Health

57. Health conditions in the ESCWA region improved over the past few years because systematic national health programmes were implemented, existing services expanded and new clinics and hospitals were established. Among countries of the region, the average number of population per bed ranged from 232 (Lebanon) to 1,378 (Yemen). Furthermore, the number of patients per physician varies widely, ranging from 6,684 (Yemen) to 629 (Jordan). The infant mortality rate also varies among the countries, ranging from 140 per 1,000 live births (Yemen) to 34 (Kuwait). The rate of 140 per 1,000 live births is still high. In several of the ESCWA countries, particularly the Gulf countries, patients enjoy health services free of charge. However, in some other countries, an inequitable distribution network of medical services at the country level remains a problem. Access to medical services and medical care is often very difficult for some sectors of the population, particularly those living in rural areas. Thus, the new national development plans have been more intensively directed towards developing primary health care services and establishing medical service delivery networks in rural communities.

D. Rural development

58. The rural population, which constitutes more than 50 per cent of the region's total population, has not yet been integrated into the mainstream of development, as reflected by the rapidly growing and already wide disparity between the rural and urban per capita incomes in most countries of the region. In the least developed countries of the region, where the rural population constitutes the majority of the population, rural development has assumed the magnitude of a major national problem. Regardless of the recent trends in national development policies in favour of rural areas, these areas still have limited access to services and their illiteracy rate, gross enrolment rate in education and infant mortality rates remain much higher than the rest of the population. Several institutional arrangements should be encouraged, including the establishment of local development associations and of agricultural co-operatives. Furthermore, more and more emphasis should be placed on popular participation in the initiation, planning and administration of the programmes, rather than on selected aspects of their implementation, as occurs now.

E. Crime prevention and drug abuse control

59. The ESCWA region has also witnessed a rapid growth in the crime rate, which has partly been caused by factors specific to the region. The means used to fight such incidents have sometimes been inspired by the particular cultural and legal background prevailing in the region. The social and economic imbalances created by the development process have played an important role in the increase of crime in the region, as is the case in other developing regions of the world. Among these

imbalances is the rapid urbanization that has taken place during the past decade. The growth of urban population has been spectacular, and it now represents well over half of the total population. Urban growth, in addition, is generally concentrated in the major city of each country. This has created tremendous strains on the physical and economic infrastructure of some cities around which shanty towns have sprung up. The lack of regular and productive work and the erosion of social values are the cause of a high crime rate in the communities of new immigrants. Furthermore, the widening of the generation gap, partly generated by the modernization process, and the changes in the nature and structure of the family have certainly helped to spread juvenile delinquency together with a feeling of rootlessness among the younger generation. Prolonged conflicts in the region, such as the Lebanese case, have adversely affected and in some cases shattered the social structure. Drug-related problems and crimes in the region have grown considerably due to these prolonged and ongoing armed conflicts. Finally, the migrant workers returning from the Gulf countries to the traditional labour-exporting countries have had to face high unemployment rates and have sometimes been unable to reintegrate satisfactorily in society.

F. Disability

60. The issue of disability is of particular significance to the region, where the problem has grown rapidly and shows no sign of abating.

61. The search for the major causes of disability in the ESCWA region reveals that they can be grouped into social and environmental, cultural and medical factors. More recently, the prolonged armed conflicts in some countries of the region, such as the Iraq-Iran war, the war in Lebanon and the repeated confrontations between Israeli and Palestinian people, have contributed to increasing the magnitude of the problem. There is an obvious relationship between poverty and disability. The relationship is confirmed by the high incidence of disability in Arab villages exposed to adverse economic and social conditions. There is also indication that there are large numbers of disabled persons among expatriate workers, a phenomenon to be found in the Gulf countries. Furthermore, high illiteracy rates, particularly among women, are both a determinant and consequence of underdevelopment. Many studies have shown the positive correlation between female illiteracy and infant morbidity and mortality. Among the cultural factors responsible for disability are certain values, standards and practices, the most significant of which is the practice (or even encouragement) of marriage between close relatives. The genetic disorders caused by endogamous marriage can result in all types of impairment, sensory, physical and mental. Health factors include the lack of immunization against disease, the lack of early detection and intervention of impairment and insufficient public awareness of the causes, symptoms and consequences of impairment. The high fertility rates that prevail in some countries of the region contribute to the prevalence of congenital impairments.

G. Aging

62. Fundamental demographic transformation has been taking place, resulting from a number of socio-economic changes, such as oil wealth and the subsequent changes of

values and life style, the exodus of young emigrant workers in some countries, in addition to lower levels of mortality and fertility.

63. In 1985, the percentage of the elderly (60 years and older) of the total population in the region was 4.3 per cent - a number much lower than the world average. However, in the year 2025, it is expected that this percentage will range from 5 per cent (Jordan) to 17.6 per cent (the United Arab Emirates) with an average of 9.05 per cent. The dominance of the single female elderly population (widows) in most countries of the region will affect the pattern of family support, bread-winning and care, as they are most likely to be financially dependent. In the past, countries of the region have been heavily dependent on the role of the family (within the framework of traditional extended family) for the care of the elderly. Although this concept is still the characteristic feature in the region, the complexities of life, industrialization and rapid urbanization have, to some degree, detracted from family solidarity. Therefore, the need for social services for the elderly have increased, and the coverage of these needs by both public and private social service networks should be urgently extended. New policies in the field of aging, such as flexible retirement schemes, vocational training or income security schemes, should be sought and planned. Also, the participation of voluntary organizations in the care of aging should be promoted, together with efforts at conserving essential family services.

Notes

1/ United States oil production alone fell by an estimated 500,000 b/d in 1989 to 7.64 m/b/d, its lowest level since 1964.

2/ The rise in the dollar versus the other major currencies in 1989 reversed the downward trend of a falling dollar which began in March 1985.

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REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

A Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific during the period 1985-1994 was proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/227. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1984/78 on the Decade, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Council at its second regular session of 1986, and every two years thereafter until the end of the Decade. The first two reports submitted to the Council in 1986 and 1988, respectively, provided information on objectives, strategy, proposed action programme of the Decade and progress of implementation. The present report consists of two parts. The first part concerns the activities undertaken by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and concentrates mainly on the significant development that has taken place during 1989 and 1990, namely the mid-term review of the Decade. The second part concerns the follow-up action and activities undertaken by the secretariat the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

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Part one. Activities undertaken by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Summary

The Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, reached its mid-point at the end of 1989. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at its forty-fourth session, in 1988, decided that it was necessary to review the progress so far made in the implementation of the Decade programme, with particular reference to the national programmes, and to examine the regional programme of action and modify it, as necessary, to ensure that it will continue to reflect the immediate needs and actual requirements of members and associate members for the remaining period of the Decade. In this context, the Commission recommended that a series of intercountry missions should be organized by the ESCAP secretariat to various interested member countries with a view to: (a) assessing the impact of the Transport and Communications Decade on national plans and policies of the developing member countries; (b) identifying crucial short- and long-term transport and communications problems in the ESCAP region; and (c) reviewing the priorities of the regional programme of action for the Decade.

In pursuance of that recommendation, intercountry missions are being organized by the secretariat. The missions, which started in September 1989, have so far visited 18 countries.

The present document presents a summary and a selective overview of the findings of the missions to the countries so far visited, with particular emphasis on the issues relating to general awareness of the Decade; the impact of the Decade on development of transport and communications sectors in the member countries; major priority areas of the member countries during the second half of the Decade; and specific requirements of member countries for ESCAP assistance. A more comprehensive analysis will be undertaken after completion of the mission in May 1990 and this will be reflected in the mission's final report.

The document also deals with some of the problems that the secretariat has encountered during the implementation of the Decade, particularly those relating to the constraints in securing staff resources to undertake the additional work involved in the Decade's activities, as a result of the present financial situation of the United Nations system.

The ESCAP secretariat, which plays a catalytic role in the co-ordination of activities for the Decade, has been making every effort to ensure the successful accomplishment of the Decade's objectives and has implemented a number of projects within the framework of the regional programme of action and in accordance with the priority accorded by the Commission. A list of projects completed, projects under implementation and projects for which financial assistance is being sought can be obtained from the secretariat. Up to the end of 1989 a total of approximately $US 23 million has been mobilized by the secretariat from various donors for Decade projects since the launching of the Decade in January 1985.

I. THE MID-TERM REVIEW

A. Mandate for action

1. At its forty-third session in 1987, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) expressed the need for an evaluation of the programmes and projects so far implemented for the Transport and Communications Decade. At its forty-fourth session in 1988, the Commission, noting that the Decade was approaching its mid-point in 1989, decided that it was necessary to review the progress so far made with particular reference to the national programmes, and to examine the regional programme of action and modify it, as necessary, to ensure that it continued to reflect the immediate needs and actual requirements of members and associate members for the remaining period of the Decade. In order to carry out that task, the Commission strongly recommended that a series of intercountry missions should be organized by the secretariat during 1988-1989, in co-operation with national transport and communication co-ordination committees or other appropriate authorities and related agencies. It also urged the donor countries and financial institutions, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to consider favourably the provision of financial assistance to the secretariat to enable it to implement the regional programme of action for the Decade more effectively, particularly financing for the proposed country missions to establish priorities for the second half of the Decade. At its forty-fifth session, the Commission reiterated its recommendation in that regard.

B. Objectives and strategies

2. The mid-term review has the following objectives:

(a) To assess the impact of the Transport and Communications Decade on national plans and policies of the developing member countries;

(b) To identify crucial short- and long-term transport and communications problems in the ESCAP region;

(c) To review the priorities of the regional programme of action for the Decade.

3. To accomplish the above objectives, the secretariat formulated the following strategies:

(a) To compile and analyse available information with regard to the stage reached in the implementation of the Decade programme at the national level through a questionnaire to the members and associate members. Information provided will serve as a basis for the preparation of the proposed intercountry missions as it will enable the mission teams to focus the discussions on the critical areas, as experienced during the first half of the Decade;

(b) To undertake a review of all the completed projects of the regional programme of action and their impact at national and regional levels on the basis

of data and information available in the secretariat and provided by the member and associate member Governments;

(c) To organize an intercountry mission to selected developing countries of the region, particularly land-locked, Pacific island, and least developed countries, to assist them in evaluating the implementation of the Decade programme and to determine the need to reassign the priorities of thrust areas, and modify and reprioritize, as appropriate, the regional programme of action to meet their changing requirements for the remaining period of the Decade;

(d) To convene a meeting at a senior level of representatives of members and associate members in the region to consider the report of the proposed intercountry mission.

4. The secretariat prepared a questionnaire and circulated it to all developing member countries. So far 13 countries have responded. The information received is being analysed by the secretariat. Reminders have been sent to those countries which have not yet responded to the questionnaire.

5. The secretariat also addressed a request to all concerned agencies, namely, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for their contributions on the progress of activities in their respective fields within the framework of the Transport and Communications Decade.

C. The intercountry mission

6. With financial assistance from UNDP and the Governments of Australia, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway, the intercountry mission was launched in October 1989 with the following objectives:

(a) To collect data and information in order to assess the current situation of transport and communications and the latest status of implementation of the programmes for the Decade at the national level;

(b) To assess the impact of the Transport and Communications Decade on the national plans and policies of members and associate members;

(c) To reassign priorities in the 22 thrust areas of the Decade, and modify and reprioritize the regional programme of action for the Decade to meet the changing requirements of the countries visited;

(d) To identify further possible regional demonstration projects for the Decade;

(e) To determine the extent of co-ordination of and co-operation in transport and communications among countries in the region and between those countries and concerned regional and international organizations;

(f) To identify ways and means for establishing closer co-operation among national co-ordination committees or other appropriate authorities for the Transport and Communications Decade of member and associate member countries;

(g) To introduce self-evaluation methods to the national co-ordination committees or other appropriate authorities to enable them to evaluate the implementation of the regional programme of action and the projects completed during the first half of the Decade at the national and regional levels.

7. The mission, which is expected to cover 24 countries of the region, will be completed in April 1990. Its final report will contain an analytical review and appraisal of the transport and communications situation of the countries visited, including their future plans and priorities. The findings of the mission will serve as a basis for the secretariat to review the present Decade programmes and to develop new programmes for the remaining period of the Decade.

8. At the time of the preparation of this document, the intercountry mission had visited 18 countries: Bhutan, China, Fiji, Idonesia, Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Thailand, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

D. Meeting of senior officials to consider the mission's final report

9. The Commission, at its forty-fifth session, supported the mid-term review project for the Decade planned to be undertaken in the latter part of 1989, and endorsed the proposal to convene a meeting at the senior level of members and associate members of ESCAP for consideration of the report of the findings of the intercountry mission which would take place within the framework of the mid-term review.

10. In pursuance of the above directive, the secretariat proposes to convene a meeting of senior officials to consider the mission's final report in the latter part of 1990. It is suggested that such a meeting might be convened immediately preceding the thirteenth session of the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications, scheduled to be held in December 1990.

II. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE INTERCOUNTRY MISSION

A. Awareness of the Decade

11. There was a general awareness of the Transport and Communications Decade at the policy-making level in some of the countries visited but much less so at the working level of government officials. In most of the countries visited the public was ill informed of the objectives, strategies and programmes of the Decade. Most of the countries visited did not fully understand the dual role of ESCAP in the implementation of the Decade programme. Out of 18 countries visited, three, China,

Mongolia and Thailand, have set up a national co-ordination committee for the Decade. Some countries planned to set up such a committee, while others felt that in view of shortage of staff such a committee could not be established. This applies particularly to the Pacific countries where, because of their size, no national co-ordination committee had been set up.

12. The mission had been able, to a large extent, to generate a great deal of awareness of the Decade among high-ranking officials in the countries visited. Some of them expressed satisfaction at the information provided by the mission with regard to the objectives and strategies of the Decade, and some indicated their willingness to participate more actively in the Decade's programmes during the remaining period of the Decade. Transport officials in most countries felt that investment in and the pace of development of transport and communications infrastructure in their countries had been lagging behind the requirements of the national economies. They repeatedly stressed that the transport and communications sectors required urgent revitalization if they were to retain their designated role as active participants in the economic and social growth and modernization of the countries. In this connection, some of the countries visited felt that the Decade could be used as an effective means to increase their development expenditure allocated to transport and communications during the remaining period of the Decade.

B. Impact of the Decade

13. There was a general feeling in the countries visited that many significant national developments in transport and communications had taken place since the launching of the Decade in 1985. These developments, it was felt, were vital for economic and social progress. They generally agreed that the Decade would add impetus to national efforts to prioritize the transport and communications sector. Although it was difficult to determine the exact benefits of the Decade in terms of quantity and impact, many countries acknowledged that they had received direct or indirect benefits from the Decade programmes of ESCAP and other related United Nations agencies since the launching of the Transport and Communications Decade. Of the countries visited, Thailand stated that the Decade had had a great impact on the growth, efficiency, investment in and technological advancement of the Thai State Railways; the Lao People's Democratic Republic mentioned that the establishment of a freight forwarding agency in that country was a direct result of the Decade; Mongolia felt that participation in ESCAP road seminars in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Bangkok and the training courses organized by ESCAP under the UNDP-funded project on the development of rural road infrastructure had been very productive; while the Solomon Islands informed the mission that, under the Decade programme, PORTMIS (Port Management Information System) was being installed by the Solomon Islands Port Authority.

14. Some countries admitted that although they were not fully aware of the objectives of the Decade, they had participated in the regional programme of action for the Decade carried out by ESCAP in activities including seminars, workshops and training courses in the fields of roads, railways, shipping, ports, inland waterways, air transport and telecommunications. All the countries felt that those activities were useful to them and should be continued. The land-locked countries,

however, expressed the view that because of the special problems they were facing in the development of transport and communications systems, provision should be made for more than one participant from their countries to attend such seminars and training courses. Some countries felt that language difficulties had prevented them from participating fully in such activities, while others mentioned that owing to staff shortage it was often not possible for them to release officials, particularly at the senior level, to participate in Decade activities. In that connection, it was suggested that national seminars and workshops would prove more effective.

C. Major priorities for the second half of the Decade

15. The future priorities with regard to transport and communications development for the second half of the Decade of the countries so far visited are largely specific to each country. Based on intensive discussions between members of the team and concerned government officials, the following are the priority areas of each country for the remaining period of the Decade:

Country	Priority areas
Bhutan	Development of telecomunications; expansion of civil aviation services and airports; expansion of postal services in the rural area; construction of new rural feeder roads; realignment of main highway routes; highway maintenance; development of ropeways; and environmental protection.
China	Development of containerization equipment, development of port management and port planning; development of land bridge from Chinese ports to Europe; rehabilitation of ports for coastal shipping; improvement equipment for transport and dangerous goods; improvement of inland water transport on the five main rivers and canal to develop a north-south inland water transport route; study of environmental problems due to dredging; and preparation of a comprehensive transport survey to optimize the use of all transport modes.
Fiji	Upgrading of the existing road network; upgrading of the Port of Leutoka; training of private shipowners, and setting priorities between air and sea transport in serving small islands.
Indonesia	Improvement of domestic inter-island shipping; devising an urban development plan, especially for Jakarta; reduction of road and air transport system costs; improvement of the regulatory framework for maritime transport; cargo utilization and intermodal transport; improvement of modal split of traffic; and promotion of a more flexible and responsive transport industry.

Country	Priority areas
Kiribati	Expansion of international and domestic sea and air transport, and telecommunications; and intercountry training.
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Improvement and expansion of the road network; training in freight forwarding, packing, stevedoring, dredging, river transport, and air transport.
Malaysia	Creation of an effective control planning system; completion of deferred transport infrastructure projects; rehabilitation of railway system; privatization; urban planning; and industrial complex.
Mongolia	Development of international and domestic telecommunication systems; road improvements; development of civil aviation; and upgrading of the railway system.
Myanmar	Rehabilitation and modernization of railways, particularly signalling system and tracks; development of roads with heavy traffic; development of roads in border areas; replacement of timber bridges; rehabilitation of dockyards; and construction of a new port at Thilawa.
Papua New Guinea	Expansion and improvement of the road network; updating of maritime policy and legislation, including maintenance of minimum safety standards and reduction of costs of search and rescue operations; updating and expansion of inland waterway services covering two rivers, the Fly and the Sepik; and proposed creation of a civil aviation authority in 1991.
Philippines	Expansion of telecommunications network; improvement of land transport, including metro Manila; improvement of merchant marines, including inter-island shipping; and expansion of airports.
Samoa	Updating of maritime legislation; training on ship management and operation, and training of seafarers; appropriate computerization; maintenance and upgrading of the road network; and extension of the airport runway.
Solomon Islands	Repair and upgrading of the existing road system, bridges and wharves; replacement of the government fleet; rehabilitation and upgrading of Honiara oversees wharf to provide for full container operations; and port training at the middle management/supervisory and operational levels.

Country	Priority areas
Tonga	Maritime transport, including establishment of a coherent legal and administrative structure for its efficient management; upgrading of the international airport to cater for large aircraft, including resurfacing of the runway, provision of navigational aids, approach lighting, security fencing and maintenance facilities; and improvement of the road network and inter-island sea communications.
Thailand	More comprehensive training for middle/senior level officials on integrated transport planning and computer application in the transport and communication sector; maintenance of existing road transport assets; development of national merchant fleets; deregulation of the transport and communication sector; development of telecommunications; and intraregional co-operation in transport and communications.
Tuvalu	Acquisition of appropriate container handling and transfer equipment; upgrading of the runway at Funafuti international airport, including construction of a new terminal building and provision of navigational aids; road improvement in Funafuti; upgrading of the Funafuti telephone exchange; and setting up of a telephone tariff structure.
Vanuatu	Upgrading of the international airport in Port Vila, and the seaports of Vila and Santos; maintenance and improvement of the existing road network; and upgrading of the telephone exchange in Vila and some of the other islands to provide for international direct dialling.
Viet Nam	Rehabilitation of railway line between Hanoi and Hochiminh City; improvement of signalling and telecommunications and introduction of computers; electrification of railways; improvement of port management; improvement of ship building industry; development of coastal shipping; and improvement of shipping management.

D. Specific requirements for ESCAP assistance

16. The following immediate requirements for ESCAP advisory services have been identified by some of the countries visited in the course of the discussions between the mission team and concerned government officials:

Country	Assistance required
China	Implementation of PORTMIS at Tainsin Port to be extended to other ports; organization of a National Workshop on Port Financial/Economic Planning Model, to be attended by representatives of all major Chinese ports for future implementation in each port; development of port legislation guidelines, which will be used to improve the regulation of Chinese ports; measures to increase the number of Chinese participants in the regional maritime strategy study Expert Group meetings; participation in regional seminars dealing with comprehensive transport studies and multimodal transport; participation in seminars on coastal shipping, comprehensive transport studies and transport of dangerous goods at sea; and promotion of Shanghai Maritime University to cater for organization of regional courses.
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Freight forwarding, particularly on laws and regulations, and possible joining of international organizations dealing with freight forwarding.
Papua New Guinea	Shipping legislation for small craft of less than 10 m in length; preparation of maritime policy guidelines; and improvement of inland waterways.
Samoa	Solving of sedimentation problems at Apia and Asau ports, and a complete hydrographic survey of some main ports.
Solomon Islands	Updating road transport legislation.
Thailand	Computer application for land transport development; improvement of the efficiency of road transport personnel; system analysis for development of a maritime information system; policy and planning for civil aviation, including airport and air freight planning; establishment of a traffic engineering research centre; and short- and long-term problem-solving plan of the Port Authority of Thailand.
Tonga	Training of cargo handling equipment operators to be undertaken in Nuku'alofa; and updating of maritime legislation.
Tuvalu	Setting up of a small hydrographic surveying team in the Ministry of Works and Communications; hydrographic survey of Nukufetau and Nanumea; advice on necessary dredging equipment; survey of existing reef channels; provision of appropriate navigational aids on Funafuti; and training requirements.

The above requirements are in addition to Governments' requests for the services of the ESCAP regional adviser on small ports and harbour development.

E. Regional projects

17. Nearly all the countries visited expressed the need for the continuation of regional projects being implemented by ESCAP. The Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway, the regional maritime strategy study, the Port Management Information System (PORTMIS), and multimodal transport were mentioned in particular. It was felt that regional projects with high training and fellowship components should also be intensified by ESCAP, as there was a continued need for human resource development given the rapid technological advances in road, air, and sea transport and telecommunications. It was suggested that an ESCAP regional adviser on transport and communications for the land-locked countries should be appointed as a constructive step in strengthening ESCAP assistance to those countries during the second half of the Decade.

III. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED DURING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECADE

18. Although a large number of the Decade's projects have been implemented since its launching in 1985, there are still certain problems facing the secretariat of ESCAP in the course of implementation. One of these problems is the lack of communication between the secretariat and the member countries in monitoring and co-ordinating developments and progress made by individual countries in their implementation of national programmes. This is mainly due to the fact that a large number of countries still have not yet established a national co-ordinating committee for the Decade, as proposed at the start of the Decade.

19. Another problem relates to the continuing financial constraints of the secretariat in undertaking additional work-load within the framework of the Decade's programme.

20. For the biennium 1988-1989, the ESCAP secretariat received a total of $US 10.84 million in regular and extrabudgetary funds for the implementation of programmes and activities related to the transport and communications sector, of which $US 8.27 million, or 76.2 per cent, was expended. The amount of extrabudgetary funds received have steadily increased since the launching of the Decade, while regular budget funds have decreased.

21. In order to comply with the recommendations of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 15 December 1986, the ESCAP Executive Secretary amalgamated the two transport divisions in the secretariat in January 1989 and reduced the regular budget post allocation for the relevant programmes by 27 per cent. In addition, 142.4 work-months were lost through vacancies and redeployment in the 1988-1989 biennium, which was equivalent to six posts.

22. In view of the above retrenchment, most of the limited manpower resources available were spent on the formulation and implementation of the regional action

programme and on co-ordination with member Governments, subregional groupings, other United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and donors. This has contributed to the shortcomings of the ESCAP secretariat in playing a more catalytic role as overall co-ordinator of the Decade, that is, through closer consultation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), assistance to member countries in establishing national co-ordination committees and more frequent and regular communication with the Governments and organizations concerned.

Part two. Activities undertaken by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Summary

Activities pertaining to the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia (1985-1994) have been conducted by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), according to the mandates of General Assembly resolution 39/227, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/69 and 1984/78, and ESCWA resolutions 138 (XII) and 170 (XV). These activities included, until now, the implementation of the specific programme elements on the Decade contained in the Commissions's transport and communications work programmes for the bienniums 1988-1989 and 1990-1991; the implementation during 1987-1988 of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project on preparatory assistance in programming for the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia (RAB/86/052/A/16/55); and the convening of the Intergovernmental/Inter-Agency Meeting on the Decade, held from 13 to 15 December 1988. The main results and achievements of these secretariat activities were the identification of 38 thrust areas covering 52 project profiles, which were formulated on the basis of a detailed analysis of the current transport and communications situation in the ESCWA region. Moreover, the general plan of action and main strategies as well as the consultation and co-ordination machinery concerned in the Decade's programmes and projects were defined. Through the reports presented by the Executive Secretary, ESCWA sessions have been regularly informed of the secretariat's activities.

Future follow-up activities on the Decade issues, to be conducted during the 1990-1994 period by the ESCWA secretariat, will concentrate mainly on consolidation and co-ordination of the Decade programmes and projects in the national, regional and interregional contexts, aiming at the same time to identify, promote and mobilize adequate financial resources for their implementation. Within the same framework, besides the regular budget funds (which could deal only with the implementation of one programme element in each programme biennium), extrabudgetary resources were planned and an umbrella project covering the last period of the Decade (1989-1994) has been prepared and submitted to UNDP in April 1989 for financing.

As the present report indicates in a detailed manner, unlike the ESCAP secretariat, the ESCWA has not so far been able to benefit from the UNDP funds or from other extrabudgetary resources to carry out the mandates it received from United Nations legislative authorities. In addition, the secretariat unit responsible for the formulation and implementation of the Decade's programmes and projects (the Transport and Communications Division) has experienced high post vacancy rates during the last six years and had also to sustain the abolishment of a senior professional post as the result of the retrenchment exercise. Thus, not only the extrabudgetary funds, but also the regular budget's support for the Decade's activities have been very limited. Under the above circumstances, unless the adequate regular and extrabudgetary resources are secured during the current biennium 1990-1991, the full implementation of the Decade's programmes of action cannot be achieved.

I. BACKGROUND AND PRESENT STATUS

23. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was included, along with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/78 of 27 July 1984 on the Transport and Communications Decade. This was later endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984.

24. In the preparation activities pertaining to the Decade, ESCWA participated in the ad hoc intergovernmental meeting, held at Bangkok from 10 to 13 October 1983, and submitted a background paper to ESCWA's eleventh session in April 1984 (E/ESCWA/XI/14).

25. In follow-up activities, the ESCWA Transport and Communications Division carried out during the period May 1987-September 1988 the UNDP project concerning preparatory assistance in programming for the Decade's implementation in Western Asia (RAB/86/052/A/16/55).

26. Moreover, a specific programme element, 1.6, entitled "Activities of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1985-1994) in Western Asia" was introduced in the work programme for the biennium 1988-1989 of the ESCWA Transport and Communications Division.

27. In accordance with the above-mentioned project document on implementation of the Decade and under programme element 1.6 of the Division's work programme for the biennium 1988-1989, the ESCWA secretariat held the Intergovernmental/Inter-Agency Meeting on the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia from 13 to 15 December 1988, at Baghdad.

28. Through a report of the Executive Secretary to the Commission at its fifteenth session in 1989 (E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.6, 15 February 1989), the secretariat gave an account of Decade activities, including project implementation and the Intergovernmental/Inter-Agency Meeting.

29. On the basis of the Executive Secretary's report, ESCWA adopted at its fifteenth session a new resolution 170 (15) of 18 May 1989 on Decade activities, reiterating its support for the Decade.

30. Furthermore, the programme element, 1.6, was incorporated into the work programme of the Transport and Communications Division for the biennium 1990-1991. This programme element envisages:

(a) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting on the Decade during the first quarter 1991;

(b) Preparation of a report to the Commission at its sixteenth session, to be held in April 1991;

(c) Operational activities consisting of backstopping and support for the Decade projects and programmes to be implemented in the ESCWA region.

31. In a further attempt to pursue Decade activities, the ESCWA secretariat has prepared an umbrella project amounting to $US 1.6 million, covering the remaining six years of the Decade (1989 through 1994). This project proposal was presented for funding to UNDP on 13 April 1989.

II. PROJECT ON PREPARATORY ASSISTANCE IN PROGRAMMING FOR THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN WESTERN ASIA

32. The project was approved by UNDP in November 1986 and became operational in May 1987. It was planned for a six-month period with a total of 20 consultant work-months, requiring a UNDP input of $US 200,000. The immediate objectives of the project were to assess the transport and communications situation in the ESCWA region within the framework of the Decade and to identify thrust areas for regional action. The project also aimed at establishing appropriate machinery for consultation and co-ordination on the Decade programmes at the national and regional levels. The outputs envisaged within the framework of the project include the preparation of reports on (a) the survey of existing transport and communications systems in the ESCWA region, emphasizing planned projects and future trends as perceived by national authorities; (b) identification of major thrust areas for regional action, strategies and programmes; and (c) proposals pertaining to the establishment of a network for consultation, co-ordination and follow-up of the ESCWA Decade programmes. The main objective of this project was to enable the ESCWA secretariat to launch Decade activities in Western Asia in accordance with resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission.

33. The project team was composed of a team leader and one consultant in each of the following fields: roads, maritime transport, railways and air transport and telecommunications. The team visited selected member countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen) during the period from June to October 1987. A staff member of the Division accompanied these missions. Information and data collected were utilized for the drafting of the final report on the project, published in September 1988 as the "Project report on preparatory assistance in the programme for the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia (1985-1994)" (E/ESCWA/TCD/88/IG.1/3 and Corr.1).

34. The project report included a detailed analysis of current transport and communications infrastructure and facilities in Western Asia and outlined the main problems of these sectors; it also identified 38 thrust areas for further action and described their main features. The report covered 52 project profiles with cost estimates. The report also covered organizational and institutional measures to be undertaken within the framework of future projects and programmes for the next decade.

35. Another output envisaged in the UNDP project document for the preparatory assistance project was "a proposal on the establishment of a network for consultation, co-ordination and follow-up on the ESCWA Decade Programme". A consultant's report examining such a network in detail was prepared and published

in November 1988 under the title "Establishment of a consultation and co-ordination machinery on the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia" (E/ESCWA/TCD/88/IG.1/4).

III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL/INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN WESTERN ASIA

36. The ESCWA transport and communications work programme for the biennium 1988-1989 under programme element 1.6 (see paras. 26 and 27), output (i), envisaged the organization of an intergovernmental meeting during the fourth quarter of 1988. The UNDP project document concerning preparatory assistance for the Decade's implementation in Western Asia provided for the holding of an Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee Meeting for consultation and co-ordination of the Decade programme. As a result of various contacts with ESCWA member countries, it was decided to hold these two meetings concurrently to ensure better consultation and interaction between government officials and agency representatives. Therefore, the Intergovernmental/Inter-Agency Meeting on the Decade was held from 13 to 15 December 1988 at ESCWA headquarters in Baghdad.

37. During the Intergovernmental/Inter-Agency Meeting, which was attended by representatives of ESCWA member countries as well as by representatives of various Arab and international organizations and United Nations agencies (see the final report of the meeting (E/ESCWA/TCD/88/IG.1/5)), the following three topics were discussed:

(a) The above-mentioned "Project report on preparatory assistance in the programme for the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia (1985-1994)", in particular the findings and results of the report;

(b) The above-mentioned report on "Establishment of a consultation and co-ordination machinery on the Tranpsport and Communications Decade in Western Asia";

(c) Future activities of the Decade and recommendations pertaining to follow-up actions concerning Decade programmes and projects.

38. The Intergovernmental/Inter-Agency Meeting adopted the two reports with some modification and amendments which are indicated in the final report. The two reports were published in a combined form as a single document (E/ESCWA/TCD/88/IG.1/3/Rev.1, March 1989).

39. Regarding the third topic of discussion, the Meeting formulated a number of recommendations which can be classified under three headings:

(a) The establishment of a network for consultation and co-ordination on the ESCWA Decade programme, to be carried out by means of national committees, a joint intergovernmental/inter-agency body and a "Decade Unit" attached to the ESCWA Transport and Communications Division: co-operation and co-ordination of Decade activities at national, regional and interregional levels should be conducted through this recommended and approved network;

(b) The necessary support and assistance to make the Decade programme and projects successful: this should be realized through the full and active participation of the ESCWA member States in Decade projects, through activities and meetings as well as through the financial support to be provided in particular by UNDP, and also by regional funds and other resources;

(c) Preparation of specific documents, studies and surveys regarding the Decade programme, based on improved data and information to be provided by the ESCWA countries, which should be further elaborated and consolidated by the ESCWA secretariat: these documents are to be discussed in meetings to be organized within the framework of the co-ordination and consultation network envisaged for the Decade programme and projects and should also be presented to funding agencies and organizations.

IV. PROPOSED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES ON DECADE PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

40. This chapter outlines the principal follow-up activities stemming from the Decade activities already implemented, and those based upon recommendations formulated by the Intergovernmental/Inter-Agency Meeting on the Decade.

41. The main objectives of the proposed follow-up activities are the following:

(a) To prepare, consolidate and implement programmes of action and projects for the Decade in accordance with General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ESCWA resolutions;

(b) To co-ordinate the above programmes and projects in the national, regional and interregional context;

(c) To identify, promote and mobilize adequate financial resources for the implementation of Decade programmes and projects;

(d) To monitor and, whenever necessary, to make changes in current or planned activities for implementation of Decade programmes and projects in the ESCWA region.

42. The above goals will be achieved through the following means:

(a) In the short-term, the above-mentioned programme element 1.6 of the ESCWA Transport and Communications Division work programme for the biennium 1990-1991 will continue to cover all activities pertaining to the Decade. Funds from the regular United Nations budget, as well as through extrabudgetary resources, are planned for the implementation of this programme element. In this context, the establishment of the "Decade Unit" to be attached to the ESCWA Transport and Communications Division is of particular importance. It will carry out the technical co-operation projects on the Decade through specific consultancy assignments providing technical assistance to member countries. Within the framework of the 1990-1991 ESCWA transport work programme, an intergovernmental meeting will be held during the first quarter of 1991 to discuss the progress achieved in Decade activities with the concerned authorities in ESCWA member

countries. The results of this meeting will be communicated to the Commission at its sixteenth session the same year. Moreover, within the framework of its transport programmes and according to the terms of reference of the Decade Unit, if adequate funds are allocated, the ESCWA secretariat will continue to enlarge the data and information base to prepare specific documents, surveys and studies pertaining to the Decade programme and projects;

(b) In the medium-term, the ESCWA secretariat's medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 will cover the last three years of the Decade (1992-1994), thus incorporating, inter alia, appropriate means and activities to be undertaken at secretariat level;

(c) As regards the consultation machinery needed for all parties concerned to communicate with each other and to co-ordinate the Decade programmes and projects at the national, regional and interregional levels, a new organizational network for the Decade will be established. This network, consisting of national decade committees, the joint Intergovernmental/Inter-Agency Committee on the Decade, the ESCWA transport programme and the Decade Unit, will constitute a forum for all participants in Decade activities to meet on a regular or ad hoc basis to draw up concerted policies, adopt plans and follow up implementation processes. (See the consultant's report mentioned in para. 35; also the final report on the Intergovernmental/Inter-Agency Meeting (E/ESCWA/TCD/88/IG.1/5).) The various components of the network will also, in an integrated manner, prepare, implement, co-ordinate, monitor and revise activities for the Decade;

(d) Another means of achieving the Decade's objectives consists in providing adequate financial resources to implement the Transport and Communications projects. A part of these resources may already have been earmarked in the medium-term development plans or annual investment programmes of ESCWA member countries. It is, however, assumed that programmes of ESCWA regional or subregional investment schemes proposed in the Decade programmes will require, for their implementation, additional or new funds. Consequently, the effective support from the related regional, Arab and international funding agencies is a necessity. To secure such regional and international funding, fund-raising activities, pledging conferences and the promotion of Decade investment schemes are also planned. These will be carried out during the 1992-1994 period.

43. The Decade's activities, which have been conducted by the ESCWA Transport and Communications Division, are also considered as an appropriate terrain for increasing co-operation and collaboration with the League of Arab States transport programme. This has led to an agreement signed between the League and ESCWA to be implemented through a programme of co-operation based both on the League's transport strategy and on the ESCWA programmes of action for the Decade. In fact, the transport strategy adopted by the League, which covers the entire Arab world, deals with issues and projects similar to those foreseen in the Decade's programme of work.

V. COMMENTS AND PROPOSALS

44. On the basis of the foregoing developments and facts delaying the follow-up action on the Decade, particularly concerning the financing of the umbrella project by UNDP, the following comments must be made:

(a) ESCAP initiated in 1982 the idea of proclaiming a Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1985-1994);

(b) This explains the lead taken by ESCAP and their co-ordinated action with UNDP, which financed their project in 1984, i.e., before the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 39/227;

(c) From the very beginning, as expressed in paragraph 5 of its resolution 1963/69, the Council intended to involve ESCWA in the Decade and, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 1984/78, it placed ESCWA on equal footing with ESCAP;

(d) General Assembly resolution 39/227, proclaiming the Decade, adopted the same wording used by the Council and urged all relevant international organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, to contribute to and provide assistance for the effective implementation of the regional action programme for the Decade;

(e) UNDP Governing Council resolution 86/30 of 27 June 1986, on special programme resources, authorized "the notional earmarking of $6 million for the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific";

(f) By the beginning of 1986, the Transport and Communications Division was pressed to initiate action for the development of a programme to be incorporated in the Decade;

(g) In order to formulate such a programme, assistance was requested in the form of a preparatory assistance project, which UNDP approved in November 1986. This is the terminated RAB/86/052 for which UNDP allocated $200,000 from the $6 million notional earmarking for the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific from Special Programme Resources. The project has been implemented by the ESCWA secretariat, as indicated in part II of the present report;

(h) An umbrella project was formulated by the ESCWA secretariat as a follow-up to the preparatory assistance project RAB/86/052. UNDP preference for one umbrella project was confirmed by UNDP to ESCWA staff during their mission to New York in January 1989. The project document was submitted to UNDP on 13 April 1989;

(i) As the remaining funds under the $6 million allocation had already been committed for projects to be implemented by the ESCAP secretariat, the requirements of ESCWA for the Decade's programmes and projects, amounting to $1.6 million (see para. 31 of this report), could not be covered from UNDP's Special Programme Resources. Furthermore, the UNDP Governing Council, in paragraph 11 of decision 90/3, took note of paragraphs 22-24 of document DP/1990/7 regarding the

activities of the Transport and Communications Decade and agreed that such activities implemented by United Nations economic and social commissions should be financed in the future from funds other than Special Programme Resources. Consideration of the request made by ESCWA for funding of those activities from UNDP's Regional Programme for Arab States and European programmes has been postponed until the mid-term review of the Regional Programme, scheduled for October 1990.

45. In the above circumstances, the full implementation of the Decade's projects already formulated, and the appropriate follow-up of the Decade's programmes of action as mandated by United Nations legislative authorities can be realized only through new financial resources. In this context the Economic and Social Council, re-emphasizing its decision already expressed in the resolutions pertaining to the Decade, is requested to urge UNDP to allocate the resources required for the implementation of the Decade activities in the ESCWA region, as has been the case for the ESCAP region.

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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Second regular session of 1990
CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS:
PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

Global strategy for the prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on developments in the global AIDS pandemic.

2. The report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 44/233 of 22 December 1989, in which the Assembly, inter alia, urged Member States to increase their efforts to combat AIDS and to encourage, support and facilitate national efforts to prevent the further spread of the disease; called upon international, national and research institutions and organizations to co-ordinate their activities so as to provide input to and be supportive of the policy of national AIDS committees and the global AIDS strategy of the World Health Organization; requested the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in close collaboration with the other organizations of the United Nations system, to continue to develop and advance the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS; and requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, all other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and the WHO/UNDP Alliance to Combat AIDS, to intensify his efforts, at all levels, to deal with the socio-economic and humanitarian aspects of the pandemic.

3. Accordingly, while the present report provides an update on the global epidemiological situation, it also reflects the increased efforts by United Nations entities in promoting AIDS prevention and control activities, as well as efforts to deal with the socio-economic and humanitarian aspects of the pandemic.

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* A/45/50.

ANNEX

Report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS

Summary

This report is prepared in response to resolution 1989/108 of the Economic and Social Council and resolution 44/233 of the United Nations General Assembly, which requested the Director-General of the World Health Organization to continue to develop and advance the global AIDS strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS with specific reference to non-governmental organizations, women, children, abuse of drugs, access to affordable technologies and pharmaceuticals, and the active participation of public and private sector enterprises.

The present document is based, inter alia, on the report of the Director-General to the Forty-Third World Health Assembly (WHA/43/6) (available on request from the Organization's headquarters at Geneva) - and contains contributions from the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system which are members of the Inter-Agency Advisory Group, established by WHO to co-ordinate the AIDS activities of the United Nations system.

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I. GLOBAL AIDS EPIDEMIOLOGY

A. World-wide distribution of HIV/AIDS

1. World-wide AIDS surveillance is co-ordinated by the WHO Global Programme on AIDS. Reports are received from individual ministries of health, as well as from WHO collaborating centres on AIDS and WHO regional offices. The number of officially reported AIDS cases world-wide as at 1 April 1990 was 237,110; however, WHO estimates the actual number to be over 600,000.

2. In the past four years, the cumulative number of AIDS cases reported to WHO increased more than 18-fold, and the number of countries reporting AIDS cases to WHO increased by more than 100, which not only illustrates the widespread distribution of AIDS, but also testifies to the growing openness of countries in responding to the pandemic.

3. The full burden of HIV infection and AIDS as a result of transmission from an HIV-infected woman to her fetus or infant remains particularly underrecognized. The underestimate results both from underreporting and from the difficulty in diagnosing paediatric AIDS cases before the child is 15 to 18 months old.

4. In Africa, as at 1 April 1990, more than 1,000 cases had been reported by Burundi, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and 500 to 1,000 cases by Burkina Faso and the Central African Republic. Although cases were first officially reported from Africa in 1982, about 90 per cent of the total were cases reported after the beginning of 1987. WHO estimates that, since the beginning of the epidemic, a total of over 300,000 AIDS cases have occurred in adults in Africa, primarily sub-Saharan Africa.

5. In the Americas, as at 1 April 1990, the United States of America had reported 124,282 cases, or over 80 per cent of all cases in the region. Brazil, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico had each reported more than 1,000 cases. Countries reporting 250 to 1,000 cases included Argentina (566), the Bahamas (437), Colombia (643), Honduras (512), Peru (254), Trinidad and Tobago (557) and Venezuela (646), while those reporting 100 to 249 cases included Barbados (112), Bermuda (135), Chile (178), Costa Rica (151), El Salvador (165), Jamaica (140), and Panama (180); 100 to 249 cases were also reported by French Guiana (150), Guadeloupe (175) and Martinique (115).

6. In Europe, the greatest numbers of cases were reported from France (8,883), Italy (5,307), the Federal Republic of Germany (4,544), Spain (4,633) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2,920). The lowest numbers were reported from the eastern European countries, with Albania reporting no cases.

7. In Asia and the Pacific, 51 countries reported the remaining 1 per cent of the world cumulative total, namely, 2,565 cases as at 1 April 1990. In Oceania, 1,760 cases were reported from Australia and 156 from New Zealand. Countries in Asia reported 618 AIDS cases, with the following reporting 10 or more cases:

Japan (182), India (40), the Philippines (26), Thailand (32), Papua New Guinea (13) and Singapore (15). Hong Kong reported 22 cases.

B. Modes of transmission

8. Epidemiological studies in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Australia continue to document only three modes of HIV transmission: (a) sexual intercourse, whether heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual; (b) exposure to blood, blood products, or donated organs or semen (exposure to blood principally involves transfusion of unscreened blood or use of inadequately sterilized needles, syringes, or other skin-piercing instruments); and (c) perinatal transmission from an infected woman to her fetus or infant.

9. There is no evidence to suggest that HIV can be transmitted by the respiratory or enteric routes or by casual person-to-person contact in any setting, including household, social, workplace, school or prison settings. There is no evidence that HIV transmission involves insects, food, water, toilets, swimming pools, sweat, tears, shared eating and drinking utensils, or other items such as second-hand clothing or telephones.

C. Global epidemiological patterns

10. WHO has described several broad patterns of HIV transmission and AIDS according to prevailing sexual practices and social risk behaviour (mainly intravenous drug use).

11. Pattern I areas include the industrialized countries of North America, Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand and, to some extent, Latin America. Extensive spread of HIV probably began in the late 1970s or early 1980s, affecting predominantly homosexual men and intravenous drug users. The overall male-to-female ratio of HIV-infected persons has been 10:1 and, as at late 1989, the total cumulative number of HIV-infected persons is estimated to be about 2 million. The epidemiological pattern in some Pattern I countries is evolving. In many Latin American countries, transmission among heterosexuals with multiple sex partners has been increasing, making this the dominant mode of HIV transmission. Because of that shift, this region has been reclassified as Pattern I/II.

12. Pattern II areas include primarily sub-Saharan Africa, and increasingly countries in the Caribbean and parts of Latin America. In those areas, heterosexual transmission of HIV predominates, the male-to-female ratio of HIV infections and AIDS cases is close to equal, and perinatal transmission is on the rise. WHO estimates the cumulative number of HIV infections in those areas to be over 3 million. Rural areas generally have been less severely affected, but that may be changing. There are still many Pattern II countries whose populations at risk of HIV infection appear as yet relatively unaffected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

13. Pattern III areas include Asia, most of the Pacific countries (excluding Australia and New Zealand), eastern Europe, northern Africa, and the Middle East, where HIV was introduced in the early to mid-1980s, but the general prevalence of both AIDS cases and HIV infections in those areas is low. In at least one Pattern III country, Thailand, extensive spread of HIV infection has been documented, with the prevalence among the estimated 50,000 Bangkok intravenous drug users rising from about 1 per cent in late 1987 to about 50 per cent in early 1990. Also, in early 1989, HIV infections were found among intravenous drug users in Rangoon. In south-east India, surveys of prostitutes in some cities have found an HIV prevalence of between 5 per cent and 15 per cent.

D. HIV prevalence estimates and global AIDS projections

14. In 1987, WHO estimated that between 5 and 10 million individuals were infected with HIV-1 or HIV-2, distributed more or less equally between Pattern I and Pattern II (including Pattern I/II) areas, with about 100,000 or fewer in Pattern III areas. In mid-1988, the estimate of WHO was closer to the lower end of the 1987 estimate - about 5 to 6 million. Estimates of HIV-infected individuals have generally been revised downward as data have accumulated; for example, the Centres for Disease Control of the United States Public Health Service estimated in 1986 that about 1 to 1.5 million individuals across the United States were HIV-infected, while the 1989 estimate was 1 million.

15. The majority of AIDS cases projected for the next five years would be expected to occur even if HIV transmission had ceased completely in 1989. The median time from infection to the development of AIDS is about 10 years. Thus, over the next decade, at least 3 million additional adult AIDS cases can be expected to develop among the more than 5 million persons throughout the world estimated to have already become infected with HIV as by 1988.

16. Early in 1989, WHO projected the course of the AIDS pandemic to the year 2000, using the Delphi questionnaire survey method. Participants were selected for their knowledge of the global epidemiology of HIV infection and AIDS. The Delphi projections suggest that the cumulative total number of adult AIDS cases might reach 5 to 6 million by the year 2000. More than half the AIDS cases in adults in the 1990s are expected to develop in persons already infected by 1988. Many of the projected AIDS cases that might arise from future HIV infections are considered to be preventable by global and regional HIV/AIDS prevention and control efforts carried out in conjunction with national programmes.

II. EVOLUTION OF THE GLOBAL AIDS STRATEGY AND HIGHLIGHTS OF 1989 ACTIVITIES OF THE WHO GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON AIDS

A. Global AIDS strategy

17. The work of WHO is predicated on its critical role of co-ordinating and directing world-wide efforts against AIDS. As the political and social response to HIV becomes increasingly complex, and biomedical research brings not only new

tools, but also new complexities to HIV/AIDS prevention and control, WHO must respond to new challenges as it seeks to further the three objectives of the global AIDS strategy: to prevent HIV transmission, to reduce the personal and social impact of HIV/AIDS, and to unify national and international efforts against HIV/AIDS.

18. Development, monitoring and evaluation of the global AIDS strategy is the central responsibility of WHO in AIDS prevention and control. Particular attention is being given to monitoring the implementation of key policies through national AIDS programmes. The rapid pace of scientific, epidemiological, social, and political developments requires constant attention, because they have a direct influence on the global AIDS strategy.

19. In response to challenges of HIV, many countries have developed different approaches to specific problems. For example, innovative efforts to reduce HIV transmission among self-injecting drug users have included programmes for needle exchange and for expansion of needle/syringe availability and bleach distribution. In each instance, those approaches are part of a broader health promotion and prevention activity.

20. In the area of the care and treatment of HIV-infected persons, including those with AIDS and those living with them, a wealth of experience is now available, particularly in non-governmental and other community-based organizations. However, without careful evaluation of those experiences and the development of methods to ascertain health and social service needs, the care and support of affected people may be inadequate.

21. In 1980, the Programme had been focusing on three areas which merit special attention. First, strategic and operational relationships between the global AIDS strategy and primary health care must be strengthened to ensure the integration of AIDS prevention and control activities within primary health care programmes, unless this would compromise HIV/AIDS programmes. Second, it is essential to strengthen the role of non-governmental organizations in developing, implementing, and monitoring the global AIDS strategy at all levels, as called for by the World Health Assembly in its resolution WHA42.34. Third, as research produces new diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive technologies, it is essential to consider strategies to ensure global availability of appropriate new technologies.

B. Highlights of 1989 activities

22. During its two meetings in 1989, the Management Committee of the Global Programme on AIDS reviewed the implementation of the 1989 programme budget and endorsed the overall strategy presented in the proposed programme budget for 1990 and estimates for 1991. Five organizations of the United Nations system are members of the Management Committee - United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund and the World Bank - in addition to the Commission for the European Communities, 18 donor Governments and 12 Member States selected by the WHO Regional Committees. The Management Committee met on 26 and 27 April and is scheduled to meet again from 26 to 28 November 1990.

23. By the end of January 1990, the progress accomplished in establishing national AIDS programmes was notable in three ways. First, every country in the world has created a national response to HIV/AIDS. Second, by the end of 1989, of the 159 countries collaborating with WHO, 123 had short-term plans and 95 had formulated a medium-term plan for their programme (table 1). Third, the quality of planning has improved substantially as attention is paid to national differences and increasing experience being gained in implementation and programme review.

TABLE 1. Support to national AIDS programmes, 1987-1989

(cumulative numbers of countries)

	1987	1988		1989		1990
	November	January	June	January	June	January
Initial technical visits	93	111	137	152	155	159
Short-term plans	58	75	106	118	120	123
Medium-term plans	25	26	28	51	74	95
Resource mobilization meetings	5	5	9	29	42	65
Programme reviews	-	-	-	1	5	10

24. Technical support has been provided in designing, implementing, and monitoring short- and medium-term national AIDS plans. In addition, substantial support has been provided in areas of particular importance for national AIDS programme development, including health promotion, epidemiological surveillance, clinical management of HIV infection and AIDS, counselling, and laboratory and blood transfusion services. Operational support to national AIDS programmes has included personnel, training, equipment and supplies, as well as financial resources.

25. While the initial and preparatory steps have proceeded rapidly, difficulties have been encountered in the process of national AIDS programme development. Implementation of the programmes has been constrained by two major problems: pre-existing limitations on human and institutional resources, and special complexities involved in AIDS prevention and control. Fundamental resource and infrastructure constraints have made it difficult to meet organizational pre-conditions for advancing from national programme formulation to implementation. Understaffed and underequipped ministries of health see AIDS as yet another challenge at a time of severe resource constraints, and these difficulties are compounded by uncertainty about the depth and sustainability of international support for national AIDS programmes in the developing world.

26. A major effort in manpower planning and development has been made to support national programmes in evaluating staff needs and defining skills to be provided through training, and helping them to undertake such training. For example, more than 400 health educators participated in training workshops in various regions in the world. More than 300 laboratory specialists have been trained in HIV diagnosis, and almost 1,000 in counselling HIV-infected persons and families.

27. WHO has played a critical role in generating resources internationally and in co-ordinating their allocation to countries, both by making support from the WHO trust fund for the Global Programme on AIDS available to countries for their short-term programmes (in most cases those funds were the sole source of external support) and by organizing resource mobilization meetings for 65 countries during the period May 1987 to January 1990, which yielded over $US 160 million.

28. Guidelines developed by the Programme in close collaboration with other WHO programmes, the WHO collaborating centres on AIDS, and external organizations concerned, have been published in the WHO AIDS Series, which is distributed to all ministries of health and made available through WHO sales outlets. During 1989 and early 1990, the following volumes in the WHO AIDS Series were published: the second edition of the Guidelines on Sterilization and Disinfection Methods Effective against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), a/ Guidelines on the Monitoring of National AIDS Prevention and Control Programmes, b/ Guide to Planning Health Promotion for AIDS Prevention and Control, c/ Prevention of Sexual Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), d/ and Guidelines for AIDS and First Aid in the Workplace, e/ which were developed in collaboration with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and ILO.

29. The theme of World AIDS Day in 1989 was AIDS and youth. WHO distributed over 50,000 newsletters and brochures and tens of thousands of "action kits" with a guide for organizing World AIDS Day events. The kits were produced in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and German, with additional materials in Russian and Chinese. WHO produced two special videos designed to reach young people, issued special packages of radio materials to over 200 countries and provided a 24-hour global radio "hot line" service on 1 December for radio journalists. WHO organized events at headquarters and inaugurated an international panel of the "Names Project Quilt". Similarly, round-table discussions, the production of video tapes, broadcasts and seminars were organized by the six regional offices of WHO and the Liaison Office in New York.

30. The theme for World AIDS Day 1990 is "Women and AIDS" and it will reflect the increasing effect of AIDS on women, as well as the crucial role women play in preventing infection with HIV and caring for HIV-infected people and people with AIDS.

31. The Government of France and WHO organized the International Conference on the Implications of AIDS for Mothers and Children, held in Paris, from 27 to 30 November 1989, under the co-sponsorship of UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, the ILO, the World Bank and the Council of Europe. In preparation for the Conference, 10 technical working groups were set up on the following topics relating to HIV/AIDS in women and children: virology; immunology; epidemiology; clinical

management; HIV and pregnancy; diagnosis; implications for health, education, community and social welfare systems; and economic and demographic impact. The Declaration made by the Conference on 30 November was reviewed by the WHO Executive Board in January 1990 and commended to the attention of the Forty-third World Health Assembly.

32. As part of the efforts to strengthen collaboration with non-governmental organizations, WHO supported the organizing committee for a proposed non-governmental international council of AIDS service organizations scheduled to be launched in June 1990. In addition, a preliminary version of an inventory of non-governmental organizations working on AIDS in developing countries, prepared under contract with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, was completed in November 1989.

33. Since 1988, non-governmental organizations working on AIDS at the country level have been able to obtain funding from the country accounts in the WHO Trust Fund for the Global Programme on AIDS, subject to review by the national AIDS programme. In addition, in 1989 over $US 650,000 were provided to non-governmental organizations for country-level activities. In 1990, $US 1 million are allocated to the experimental partnership programme for innovative and replicable community-based activities in HIV/AIDS prevention and care. All such activities are subject to approval by the national AIDS programme.

34. Innovative activities during 1989 included the development of condom procurement standards with increased emphasis on the issue of quality assurance and the preparation of materials to support condom services management at the national level. In addition, clinical management protocols for HIV infection and disease management had been developed and field tested. The Programme also designed a new WHO staging system for HIV infection and disease, now being tested in 30 centres, as a common basis for comparing studies from various countries.

III. COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

35. Co-ordination is facilitated through the United Nations Steering Committee, chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, and through the Inter-agency Advisory Group, established by WHO to co-ordinate AIDS activities of the entire United Nations system. The Inter-agency Advisory Group is studying the impact of AIDS on health, personnel and welfare policies and practices of the United Nations system, and will make recommendations on this to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination or the Consultative Committee for Administrative Questions, as appropriate.

A. Activities carried out jointly by the World Health Organization and an organization or specialized agency of the United Nations system

36. The WHO/UNDP Alliance to combat AIDS continues to co-ordinate support for national plans for AIDS prevention and control from all external partners,

including those in the United Nations system, and to organize resource mobilization meetings in collaboration with Governments. Under the auspices of the Alliance, UNDP has also been involved in assisting the integration of national AIDS plans into overall development policies and priorities at the country level, in supporting programme development and delivery, and in helping Governments to minimize the impact of HIV/AIDS on social and economic development. A second workshop on implementation organized by the Alliance, held at Geneva from 10 to 12 July 1989, brought together representatives of national AIDS programmes, as well as staff of UNDP and WHO from 18 countries, with a view to drawing up detailed operational guidelines (see also paras. 56-59 below).

37. In collaboration with UNESCO, WHO completed a Guide for school health education to prevent AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. It served as a catalyst for seven projects aimed at introducing innovative approaches to AIDS education within school systems. Those projects are being implemented with the collaboration of UNESCO and the ministries of education and of health within the various countries - currently, Ethiopia, Fiji, Jamaica, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela. This guide is complemented by a version containing policy guidelines for high-level planners and administrators, which provides the rationale and methodology for integrating AIDS education into school curricula.

38. WHO provided technical and financial support for the World Consultation of Teachers' Organizations on Education for AIDS Prevention, which took place at UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 2 to 7 April 1990. WHO is co-sponsoring the meeting with UNESCO, the ILO, and four international teachers' organizations (the International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions, the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession, the World Confederation of Teachers, and the World Federation of Teachers' Unions). The aim of the meeting was to mobilize teachers' associations world-wide to provide support for education projects within their countries (see also paras. 60 to 62).

39. WHO provided forecasts of the numbers of HIV infections and AIDS cases in infants and women in sub-Saharan Africa for UNICEF programme planning of services for women and children. UNICEF continues to participate actively in resource mobilization meetings for national AIDS plans.

40. WHO co-hosted with UNICEF a workshop on future directions for national AIDS information and education campaigns for the general public, held at Geneva from 19 to 21 June 1989, with the following objectives: (a) to reflect on past experience with national education and information campaigns, national immunization, and related child-survival campaigns, and contraceptive/family planning campaigns; (b) to evaluate the effectiveness of national AIDS information and education campaigns, and (c) to formulate recommendations for future directions. It was attended by 23 health educators and administrators from national AIDS programmes, UNICEF offices, and national organizations (see also paras. 64-67 below).

41. WHO is collaborating with the United Nations Office at Vienna to develop links relating to the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board, UNFDAC, the Social Development Division, and the Division for the

Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. A joint project on AIDS and prisons is under way; and a report is being prepared for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, to be held in Havana in August 1990. The Office is collaborating in the initiative on self-injecting drug users. Ways of expanding the involvement of ministries of social welfare in AIDS-related activities are being discussed (see paras. 68-71 below).

42. Collaboration between UNFPA, the WHO Global Programme on AIDS and the Division of Family Health has resulted in the development of technical and managerial guidelines. An AIDS training strategy for service providers in MCH/FP has also been developed and is in the initial stages of implementation. At the country level, UNFPA continues to participate in national AIDS programme donor meetings and is promoting the incorporation of appropriate AIDS prevention and control activities into its ongoing support to the development of national MCH/FP programmes. UNFPA has funded a project in Kenya on the integration of AIDS information-education-communication strategy with population education, and has helped formulate a project in Thailand on improving reproductive health in women from high-risk groups. Close co-operation between UNFPA and WHO is facilitated by the secondment of a UNFPA staff member to WHO/GPA (see also para. 51).

43. The World Bank is collaborating with WHO in studies on the economic and demographic impact of AIDS and its implications for health-care costs. Joint activities include projects on costing national AIDS programmes, developing methodology for rapid assessment of prevalence of sexually-transmitted diseases, and assessing communications infrastructures. WHO is collaborating with the World Bank to develop a research tool for the assessment of technical, institutional, and personnel resources for education and information interventions in terms of their usefulness for health promotion for AIDS prevention and control. The World Bank is providing financial support to collaborative research between GPA, the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction and the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases.

44. A joint WHO/ILO brochure on AIDS and the workplace has been prepared, and guidelines for AIDS and first aid in the workplace, as a collaborative activity of WHO, ILO and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (see para. 29 above). WHO and ILO collaborated in two other consultations: on AIDS and seafarers and on occupational exposure of health workers to HIV.

45. Technical collaboration between the United Nations Population Division and WHO has been established to assess the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS. A joint technical meeting involving AIDS programme personnel from Africa, and potential funding agencies for promising AIDS models was held at New York in December 1989.

46. WHO provided technical and financial support for an FAO study to explore methods to assess the potential impact of HIV/AIDS on food production and agricultural policies in central Africa. A report on this initial modelling method has been prepared (see also para. 77 below).

47. WHO supported a consultation on AIDS and human rights, organized by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, and held at Geneva from 26 to 28 July 1989. This was the first meeting on HIV/AIDS and human rights to be held by the United Nationsm, and its recommendations, addressed both to the Centre and to WHO, specify a number of areas in which work should be furthered. The results of this consultation were discussed and endorsed by the Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its meeting held from 7 August to 1 September 1989, when that body appointed a special rapporteur on this topic.

B. Activities carried out individually by organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system

48. The following paragraphs are based on contributions from the organizations which are carrying out the activities.

49. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat continued to emphasize AIDS prevention and control activities in all relevant aspects of its work programme in 1989, particularly on the social and economic impact of the epidemic in developing countries. In December 1989, the Population Division Task Force of the Department, established to study the demographic implications if the pandemic, convened in collaboration with WHO a Workshop on Modelling the Demographic Impact of the AIDS Epidemic in Pattern II countries. The workshop's aim was to ensure that models of the AIDS pandemic and its demographic impact provided the informatior necessary for appropriate health policy formulation and implementation.

50. The Department has developed a methodology to help identify potential implications that AIDS could have on individual socio-economic sectors in specific countries. The approach suggested in the report on the methodology was endorsed by the United Nations Steering Committee and by the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on AIDS. Accordingly, the Department developed a project proposal, which will be carried out in late 1990 in collaboration with WHO, UNDP, the regional commissions and other interested organizations and agencies.

51. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is financing projects which integrate AIDS-related activities into maternal and child health care programmes or information/education/communication programmes, such as those in Benin, Cameroon and Liberia. Final drafts of separate guidelines on various aspects of that integration have been prepared and will be published in 1990.

52. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) carried out a situation analysis aimed at assessing needs for strengthening blood-safety procedures at hospitals which received and treated Palestine refugees, with special attention being accorded to NGO hospitals in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank. Measures were undertaken to keep all health staff up-to-date on AIDS-related problems through discussions and distribution of related publications, stressing the importance of sterilization and disinfection procedures, and through the improvement of safety measures for burning disposable syringes and needles. UNRWA added HIV infection to the list of weekly infectious

disease returns to ensure prompt reporting and active surveillance. Close contact was maintained with the public health authorities of host governments to ensure effective exchange of information and the co-ordination of control measures.

53. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the Instituto Internazionale di Studi a Informazioni Sanitaria (ISIS), a WHO collaborating centre, launched jointly a drug abuse prevention education programme aimed at 14 to 18 year old students in Italian secondary schools. Called STOP DROGA, the programme which contains an AIDS component has been developed bearing in mind target 3 adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Vienna, June 1987 which aims, inter alia, to provide young people with precise information on drugs in order to prevent drug abuse as a result of ignorance. Depending on the availability of resources, the two institutions will attempt to expand the programme in Italy during 1990-1991, following which efforts will be made to transplant it in an appropriate manner to other countries, including Eastern European and developing countries.

54. The United Nations University (UNU) has collaborated with WHO in adapting rapid assessment procedures (RAP) for field studies of social patterns associated with AIDS. UNU hopes to publish "RAP for AIDS" and distribute it widely with support from WHO. A workshop on the use of RAP methodology for AIDS research has been planned for July 1990 in Nairobi.

55. To mark World AIDS Day 1989, the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat co-sponsored, in collaboration with WHO and the United Nations International School, a one-day symposium focusing on AIDS and youth, which included presentations by panelists, a play about AIDS prevention, films and video tapes, as well as a panel display on AIDS in the General Assembly public lobby, provided by UNICEF and WHO. The Department is planning a similar one-day event for 1990 with the theme "Women and AIDS". Discussion is under way with WHO for the production of an educational video and accompanying teaching guide on AIDS targeted primarily to high schools.

56. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the United Nations Medical Service also carried out activities on the control and prevention of AIDS.

57. Although the WHO/UNDP Alliance to Combat AIDS was officially proclaimed on 29 March 1988, on an informal basis collaboration between WHO and UNDP field offices had begun at an earlier stage in several countries. Approximately 18 months after proclamation of the Alliance, a comprehensive questionnaire was sent in October 1989 to all UNDP field offices, not only to obtain an assessment on a country-by-country basis of the effectiveness of the Alliance and information about ongoing or planned HIV/AIDS-related activities in country programmes, but also to obtain an analysis of the potential impact of HIV on social and economic development. Responses to those questionnaires have been received from almost all field offices and, while they have, in general, reported that the Alliance has been an effective instrument in combating HIV/AIDS, there have been variations in the degree to which UNDP has been involved in ensuring the integration of national AIDS plans into overall development policies and priorities at the country level, in

resource mobilization, in supporting programme development and delivery, and in minimizing the impact of HIV/AIDS on social and economic development.

58. In an increasing number of countries, country programmes have included HIV/AIDS components as either self-standing UNDP projects or as a component of ongoing UNDP health or education programmes. In many others, according to responses to the questionnaire, there are ongoing or planned country indicative planning figure (IPF) inputs to short- and medium-term plans for national HIV/AIDS control. According to information from WHO, based on pledges by UNDP at the country level during the course of in-country resource mobilization meetings, during the period 1987-1989, UNDP has committed over $US 10.8 million either through the WHO Trust Fund for the Global Programme on AIDS or directly to some 28 countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. In addition, responses to the questionnaire indicated that an amount of approximately $US 5.3 million in national IPFs for projects or project components dealing with HIV/AIDS had been earmarked or already committed.

59. At the inter-country level, the Regional Bureaux for Africa, for Asia and the Pacific and for Arab States and European Programmes have provided $US 620,000, $US 1,400,000 and $US 400,000, respectively, through the Global Programme on AIDS. That money is being utilized to assist Governments in the respective regions to develop and initiate national short- and medium-term plans. The UNDP Global Programme has provided $US 300,000 to the Global Programme on AIDS for unearmarked support and $US 700,000 to the Global Programme on AIDS for support to initiate the Global Blood Safety Initiative. In addition, as foreseen in the Alliance, a reimbursable global IPF project of $US 2 million was approved by the Governing Council in February 1988 for a facility to bridge the time between firm pledges for external support and the actual receipt of funds as pledged. That facility has been utilized by the Global Programme on AIDS in nine countries for a total of $US 1,987,800.

60. It is the view of the Administrator that, while UNDP has made a contribution to the struggle against HIV/AIDS, much more should be done and advantage should be taken of every opportunity to assist Governments and, through them, institutions, organizations and individuals in meeting this challenge.

61. In March 1989, UNESCO established the AIDS School Education Resource Centre (ASERC) for the collection, analysis, exchange and dissemination of information and documentation among UNESCO member States and their partners in the field of education for AIDS prevention. The Centre is being connected to the UNESCO central computer system.

62. The Sector for Culture and Communication of UNESCO will support the global AIDS strategy in two ways: (a) through research of the cultural environment in which prevention campaigns are being launched; and (b) by developing appropriate information and communication campaigns for various target groups. The aims of the first are to understand the cultural values and symbols of the societies in which prevention activities are planned, so that the messages designed for information campaign purposes may succeed. The focus of the second is on developing information-communication methods which draw on successful campaign experiences in

the past, but which also take into account different cultural and social contexts. In recent years, that was developed mostly within the communications programme for prevention against drug abuse, but is likely to be expanded in the future to cover the specific dimensions of AIDS.

63. At the request of the Director-General of UNESCO, a working group entitled "Man versus the virus" has been established by the European Academy of Science, Arts and Letters and the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology for Europe and North America (ROSTE). The group works in the field of human retrovirus and will undertake action towards the establishment of a network of European and North American laboratories co-operating in research in this field.

64. By early 1990, UNICEF had programme support in the AIDS field in all developing countries seriously affected by AIDS, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean, and in close collaboration with the WHO Global Programme on AIDS. UNICEF funds are provided for governmental and non-governmental AIDS activities which are consistent with the global AIDS strategy, and with the priorities of national AIDS programmes.

65. To prevent sexual transmission of the HIV, UNICEF supports AIDS prevention education for adults; for example, seminars for journalists in the United Republic of Tanzania, training for political leaders in Uganda on protecting young girls from infection, and training of health workers, community and church leaders in AIDS awareness in Kenya through a national women's organization and the Christian Health Association. In Zaire, UNICEF trained regional information, education and communication specialists, provided relevant materials and translated instructional materials into four national languages. UNICEF also supports AIDS-prevention education through the school systems in several countries, recognizing that school-based education is a key element in reaching the critical age group, adolescents; it also supports education for high-risk out-of-school youth, including rural youth and urban street children.

66. UNICEF has supported the prevention of transmission of HIV (hepatitis, and other infections) through contaminated skin-piercing equipment, by taking major steps to ensure the safety of government immunization programmes and maternal and child health services, by providing equipment, sterilizers, training in infection control and, where appropriate, disposable needles and syringes.

67. UNICEF is also supporting efforts to aid women and children who are HIV-infected or suffering from AIDS-related illnesses - especially the growing number of AIDS orphans. Examples include support of an organization in Uganda to assist non-governmental organizations in caring for AIDS orphans; support for an international conference, which will design ways to meet the AIDS prevention and social needs of street children; in Zaire, UNICEF supports a national women's group, which provides home care, psychological support and education for families with AIDS patients; and in the Congo, UNICEF funds a pilot centre for counselling seropositive women.

68. The United Nations Office at Vienna implemented a project to identify the interrelationships between AIDS and the status of women. The results of that

project were summarized in a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Effects of AIDS on the advancement of women" (E/CN.6/1989/6/Add.1). In considering the report at its thirty-third session, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted a draft decision on "Activities to assist women in the fight against the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome pandemic", f/ which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1989/127.

69. The United Nations Office at Vienna is considering a planned pilot survey on the legal environment of the availability of sterile needles and syringes in 12 countries. The project will analyse the legal control and distribution practices, in order to understand how they influence the availability of sterile needles and syringes which, in turn, may affect self-injecting drug use and transmission of HIV. The United Nations Office at Vienna programme for the utilization of community resources for the prevention and reduction of drug abuse, implemented on a regional basis, has as one of its objectives the prevention of HIV infection associated with drug abuse. Three regional workshops, organized in Bolivia, Kenya and Spain, included measures to achieve that objective.

70. The topic of AIDS and youth, as well as the activities of the United Nations Office at Vienna working group on AIDS, have been widely publicized and discussed in several meetings of the Vienna Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Youth. The report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on "Policies and programmes involving young people: participation, development, peace" (A/44/387), portrayed AIDS as a major youth concern.

71. A project for field work for mobilizing social welfare, voluntary, community and other groups in the campaign against AIDS in Africa is planned to be jointly implemented in 1990 by the WHO Regional Office for Africa and the United Nations Office at Vienna.

72. The Twenty-seventh Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (October 1989) agreed to the inclusion of the subject "AIDS in civil aviation" in the technical work programme for the next triennium. At the regional aviation medicine seminar held in Paris from 13 to 17 November 1989, a full day was devoted to "AIDS in relation to flight safety". The possible development of a policy concerning AIDS and HIV seropositive subjects was discussed.

73. The Assembly of the International Maritime Organization at its sixteenth session held in October 1989, adopted a resolution entitled "Undesirability of HIV screening of crews and passengers of ships" (resolution A.639(16)), in which the Assembly, inter alia, urged member States which had introduced screening to reconsider the relevant measures with a view to repealing them.

74. In 1989, UNHCR was represented at two international meetings that addressed, inter alia, the issues of AIDS and refugee movements: the Commonwealth Meeting on AIDS and Human Movement, held in London in May 1989; and, in September 1989, the Meeting on Refugees and AIDS, organized in Washington, D.C. by the Refugee Policy Group.

75. An informal working group on AIDS was constituted within UNHCR headquarters to undertake the elaboration and updating of policy on refugees and HIV, and to monitor the protection of refugees with HIV.

76. Jointly with the International Organization for Migration, UNHCR drafted guidelines on the management of HIV among Indochinese refugees in camps in Thailand, with emphasis on the confidentiality of screening results.

77. In 1989, FAO undertook two case studies in the United Republic of Tanzania and Rwanda on the potential impact of AIDS on food production and consumption through its effect on household labour supply and incomes. The concern of FAO was that AIDS could further restrict the ability of certain vulnerable groups to grow or buy sufficient food to meet their nutritional requirements. FAO is concerned by the human and policy implications of those studies. They clearly show the risk of deterioration in household nutrition from the loss of one or more adult members, particularly where women already have a heavy workload, and are less able to divert labour from cash-crop production. The impact on children could be particularly severe. Labour-intensive cash-crop production may be reduced in order to concentrate on fewer, less time-demanding food crops, with consequent losses in export earnings for the country, and deterioration in both the quantity and the quality of food consumed. Those findings should be followed up and consideration should be given as to how best the international community could support the countries facing that situation. Such support could include assistance to strengthen national capabilities in AIDS-related policy analysis, to develop and introduce labour-saving technologies, and to prepare appropriate nutrition interventions.

Notes

a/ WHO AIDS Series No. 2 (Geneva, 1989).

b/ WHO AIDS Series No. 4 (Geneva, 1989).

c/ WHO AIDS Series No. 5 (Geneva, 1989).

d/ WHO AIDS Series No. 6 (Geneva, 1990).

e/ WHO AIDS Series No. 7 (Geneva, 1990).

f/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 9 (E/1989/27/Rev.1), chap. I.B, para. 2, draft decision I.

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DISASTER REDUCTION AND RELIEF: INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER INFESTATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Economic and Social Council the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the implementation of the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa (see annex below), prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1989/98 and General Assembly decision 44/438.

2. With regard to the activities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on desert locust control since the previous report submitted to the Council in 1989 (A/44/314-E/1989/115), the field situation has remained relatively calm and no serious incidents of desert locust outbreaks have been reported. Therefore, it has not been necessary to respond to urgent requests from locust-affected countries for emergency locust control assistance. However, efforts of a more strategic nature are continuing and are summarized in the following subparagraphs.

3. In June 1989, the Governing Council of UNDP approved a research project entitled "Development of environmentally acceptable strategies for desert locust control (GLO/89/002)" for $US 5 million. This joint project between UNDP and FAO is concerned with initiating an international collaborative research network and encouraging donor consultation on desert locust research. The project is in response to the realization that alternative strategies for locust control which are not totally dependent on synthetic chemical pesticides must be developed.

4. During 1989, two meetings of donors were held under the joint chairmanship of UNDP and FAO to develop a consensus for the formation of a Consultative Group for Locust Research (CGLR). That Group, composed primarily of donors and representatives from locust-affected countries, is expected to discuss and

co-ordination individual efforts to support desert locust research and review recent technical progress.

5. An external Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) has been nominated to advise CGLR by recommending research priorities and operating tactics, reviewing and evaluating research proposals, monitoring research progress and evaluating completed projects. SAC has already identified priority research topics, agreed on a protocol for soliciting and reviewing research proposals and is considering how best to promote field research in locust-affected countries through the establishment of modest field stations in collaboration with interested national plant protection departments. SAC has also begun reviewing research proposals and has recently recommended that the joint UNDP/FAO programme finance certain specific research topics on semiochemicals, and on the development of meteorological data for locust forecasting.

6. Finally, FAO has continued to strengthen its capacity to collect and analyse field data in order to improve desert locust forecasting. In addition, FAO offered several training courses to national locust control personnel on topics related to desert locust control.

Annex

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER INFESTATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. In accordance with paragraph 10 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/98, endorsed by the General Assembly in its decision 44/438, the following report is submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990.

A. REVIEW OF THE LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER SITUATION

Desert locust

2. In the second half of 1989 and early 1990 generally only small populations of the desert locust were present in Africa and the Near East. Despite excellent environmental conditions in the summer breeding area of Africa, only small populations requiring control were present in Mali and the Niger. However, there was a small outbreak of the desert locust in India and Pakistan in the second half of 1989, which necessitated moderate-scale control operations. In April 1990 reports were received of successful breeding in Oman following a sequence of favourable rains. Control measures were mounted against the infestations and the situation is currently being closely monitored.

3. Monitoring of the distribution of the desert locust by national units supported in West Africa and the Sudan by additional resources within the framework of the International Desert Locust Task Force continued throughout 1989.

Brown locust

4. In late 1989/early 1990 there was a small-scale invasion in Lesotho by a few swarms of brown locusts but these failed to breed. Countries in the region were placed on alert in case of further possible invasions in March 1990 but these did not materialize.

Moroccan locusts

5. Heavy infestations of Moroccan locusts occurred in 1988/89 in the north-western provinces of Afghanistan and caused heavy damage to wheat, the main subsistence crop. Only limited control operations were possible in 1989 and further heavy infestations are anticipated in 1990. A control campaign has been organized within the framework of "Operation Salaam", financed by the Office of the United Nations Co-ordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan (UNOCA) and with support in kind from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Grasshoppers

6. After a season of generally rather low infestations of grasshoppers in the Sahel in 1988, during which only about 295,000 hectares were treated, there were heavy infestations of a complex of species in 1989 (see appendix I). Large-scale ground and aerial control operations in the Sahelian countries and the Sudan were mounted, to which the international donor community contributed assistance valued at some $US 38 million and nearly 3.5 million hectares were treated. However, there was heavy local damage to millet and sorghum in most countries of the Sahel. Heavy and even more widespread infestations are predicted for the 1990 season, if the summer rains reach the long-term average. A more detailed account of the grasshopper situation in the Sahel in 1989 and the outlook for 1990 can be obtained from the secretariat.

B. International co-operation

7. As the lead agency within the United Nations system for locust control, FAO continued its co-ordinating role during 1989/90 through its Emergency Centre for Locust Operations (ECLO). The Centre has provided regular monthly summaries and forecasts of the desert locust situation and special situation summaries on the grasshopper situation, including information on assistance requested and pledged. A summary of the assistance provided mainly to meet the grasshopper threat in 1989 is shown in appendix II. The total amount of donor assistance to meet the locust and grasshopper infestations since 1985 has now reached about $US 280 million.

C. Remote-sensing and meteorology

8. With respect to the use of remote-sensing technology, FAO, with donor assistance, undertook a substantial research programme in the Niger in the second half of 1989 to evaluate the potential of satellite imagery for locust monitoring. The results of this study will be available shortly. Continued assistance to ECLO was received from Algeria by the provision of synoptic meteorologists until February 1990. Further co-operation with the Office national de la météorologie of Algeria is planned through joint research on desert locust migrations. Continued co-operation and liaison was undertaken with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), including a meeting held at Montpellier, France, in October 1989.

D. Training

9. In response to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 43/203, a continued programme of training activities was undertaken in late 1989/early 1990. These activities ranged from training of village brigades in some of the Sahelian countries to national and regional training courses on survey methods, campaign organization and pesticide application. Successful regional training courses were undertaken in the Near East (Amman, July 1989), the Caribbean (Trinidad, October 1989) and in East Africa in conjunction with the Desert Locust Control

Organization for East Africa. Further training courses at all levels are planned for 1990 in the Near East and in Africa.

E. Research

10. Concerning paragraphs 10 and 12 of General Assembly resolution 43/203, there has been considerable progress in initiating research aimed at finding new approaches to locust control.

11. The joint FAO/UNDP Scientific Advisory Committee, formerly referred to as the Research Advisory Panel, has held meetings in November 1989 and March 1990 to examine a number of research proposals for possible funding by UNDP. The Committee will report to the Consultative Group for Locust Research in May 1990 and plans to hold another meeting in Rome in September 1990.

12. The Desert Locust Research and Development Register initiated by FAO in 1989 has been revised and republished in March 1990.

13. The pesticide testing and vetting scheme, under which FAO provides advice on trials of new pesticides and, where possible, co-operation in the planning and execution of trials, has also continued. It is planned that the independent referee panel which will review trials undertaken will meet in late 1990. With regard to the production of pesticide "data sheets", which will provide comprehensive information on specific pesticides for locust and grasshopper control, it is anticipated that publication will commence in the second half of 1990.

14. FAO has been directly involved in several areas of research in collaboration with appropriate organizations and institutes of the concerned countries. These studies have included:

(a) Environmental impact assessment. A pilot project in Senegal was completed in late 1989 and the report will be available shortly. A detailed follow-up study by FAO with donor funding is anticipated;

(b) Pesticide trials. Trials were undertaken in Mali in 1989;

(c) Atlantic migrations. A study on the trans-Atlantic migrations of the desert locust in late 1988, in collaboration with the Overseas Development and Natural Resources Institute (ODNRI), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is nearing completion;

(d) Locust life-cycle model. A computer model has been developed but needs to be validated;

(e) A report on estimating crop loss as a result of the desert locust was completed by FAO and distributed.

15. In addition to FAO research, donors, both individually and in co-operation with one another, have initiated research on the desert locust. In this respect, a joint donor research programme on the development of biopesticides has commenced.

F. Resources

16. With reference to paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 43/203, the Director-General of FAO had proposed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that, in 1989, there was no need to convene a pledging conference in view of the decline of the desert locust plague and the substantial assistance already in place. However, owing to the serious grasshopper situation in West Africa in 1989, FAO convened a Technical/Planning Meeting for the 1990 Grasshopper Campaign in April 1990 at which available resources were reviewed and donors informed of likely requirements. With regard to pesticide storage and the disposal of obsolete pesticides, this remains a major issue. FAO anticipates holding a meeting on the subject in 1990 and is gathering information on the extent of the problem.

G. Conclusion

17. The Director-General takes this opportunity to express once again his appreciation to all donors that have contributed resources to the locust and grasshopper campaign. The recent infestations have served to emphasize the need to develop control strategies that are less dependent on chemical pesticides. This will require major research and development efforts involving both the affected countries and the industrialized countries. The Director-General wishes to give assurances that FAO will give full support to such initiatives.

Appendix I

SUMMARY OF GRASSHOPPER INFESTATIONS AND AREAS TREATED IN WEST AFRICA DURING 1989

Country	Area infested	Area treated		
	Hectares	Ground	Air	Total
Benin	70 000	35 000	-	35 000
burkina Faso	2 500 000	249 885	149 870	399 755
Cameroon	307 500	91 320	13 680	105 000
Cape Verde	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Chad	1 500 000	195 294	58 881	254 175
Côte d'Ivoire	700 000	not specified	not specified	200 000
Gambia	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Guinea-Bissau	73 000	6 500	n.a.	6 500
Mali	1 200 000	319 856	402 636	722 492
Mauritania	2 350 000	139 293	347 925	487 218
Niger	980 000	186 826	522 730	709 556
Nigeria	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Senegal	1 500 000	229 082	300 331	529 413
Total	11 180 500	1 453 056	1 796 053	3 449 109

Appendix II

SUMMARY OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY DONORS IN 1989

(In United States dollars)

Donor	
African Development Bank	6 019 730
Algeria	306 800
Belgium	1 300 000
Canada	1 597 813
China	120 000
Denmark	2 400 000
European Economic Community	2 956 058
Finland	75 000
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	610 000
France	3 372 414
Germany, Federal Republic of	14 250 000
India	8 800
Islamic Development Bank	2 044 000
Italy	1 527 000
Japan	13 620 000
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	500 000
Netherlands	75 576
Non-governmental organizations	30 333
Norway	2 000 000
Organization of African Unity	315 000
Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries	20 000
Republic of Korea	38 000
Saudi Arabia	266 667
Spain	63 000
Switzerland	338 000
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	120 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	466 567
United Nations Children's Fund	2 000
United States Agency for International Development	12 000 000
World Food Programme	6 750
Total	66 451 508